Issue No 139

Available from Wednesday, May 26, 2010



MY PASTORS W ACKLE STREET YOBS

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Labour Party leadership contender David Miliband meets the public while in Kent. Search 'miliband'

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HOSPITAL AT CUTTING EDGE

The William Harvey Hospital is now Kent's number one life-saving service for heart patients, for whom

A new specialist centre has opened at the hospital that will treat the most seriously ill cardiac patients with the latest, most effective procedures. **FULL STORY ON PAGE 2**

BY **MIKE BENNETT**

A CLAMPDOWN on drunken behaviour on the streets of Ashford is being tackled by the Army... the Salvation Army.

The scheme that started in London to curb street gangs seven years ago has proved so successful they now operate in 170 towns across Britain.

Street Pastors aim to deal with mainly alcohol fuelled challenges in a non-confrontational manner to bring peace and safety to the streets, and they have the backing of both the police and Ashford council.

Salvation Army Lt Mark Scott said: "The best comment from the public I like is that we are a kind of walking bus for drunks".

For the united churches, Lt Scott said the Urban Trinity of Christians working with local government and police represented getting out and doing things in the community.

He said: "We are united to make a real difference on the streets, from picking people out of the gutters or issuing flip-flops to females that have lost shoes. I am excited this service is

coming to our town".

All volunteers will have to complete an intensive 12-week training course and are expected to donate £300 towards the service.

At a public meeting in Willesborough Baptist Church cabinet member for community safety Cllr Michael Claughton said he was delighted

to be involved at the start of the new initiative. He said: "This partnership between the churches, the local authority and police can

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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EMAIL: Editorial: yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS Printed by Archant Print

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Specialist unit goes to heart of the problem

BY **MIKE BENNETT**

MINUTES matter in the race for life and Kent heart attack victims now have a better chance of survival thanks a to life-saving new service in Ashford.

The specialist centre at the William Harvey Hospital takes patients from across the county for an urgent angioplasty procedure to unblock an artery carrying blood to the heart.

Under local anaesthetic, a small balloon is inserted via an artery in the groin or arm and guided to the blockage. Once in place it is inflated and removed, leaving behind a 'stent' which allows blood to flow through freely.

Before its introduction heart

attack victims were given injections of clot-busting drugs.

Blockage

In Kent up to 1,000 people a year suffer the most serious complete blockage of an artery and they will now be treated in the new unit led by ten top cardiologists with expert teams of nurses, radiographers and cardiac physiologists ready and waiting to operate around the clock.

Kent Cardiovascular network lead and consultant Dr Bet Mishra, said: "To ensure patients recover well, coronary artery flow needs to be reestablished as quickly as possible to limit damage to the heart muscle.

'Clinical evidence shows using primary angioplasty as the main treatment will save about 240 more lives a year in the UK and lead to improved recovery for many others.

"It has fewer complications and reduces the rates of future heart attacks and prevent around 260 strokes a year.

"It also reduces the time patients spends in hospital from up to nine days to around three.

Time is crucial and research



LIFE-SAVING: Primary angioplasty procedure to unblock a clogged artery

shows the best results come when patients are treated within 150 minutes of their attack.

Dr Mishra, said: "Maximum ambulance travelling times from all postcodes in Kent will be 75 minutes but for 'blue light' emergency calls it will be shorter"

David Davis is the clinic co-ordinator for the Ambulance Service.

He said: "This is the first in the South East to provide a county-wide service for heart attack patients. It gives victims the opportunity to walk away with little or no damage to the heart after a major scare. "The key is to call 999 and para-

medics will establish whether they need to be taken to Ashford on a red

In its first month the unit dealt with 96 patients.

Bryan Sutton, 51, from London Road, Deal, was the first patient treated and he was back full of health with his relieved wife Kerry, for the official launch.

He said: "At 4am I was poorly at home with what I thought was indigestion. At 9.30am I phoned my doctor and he sent an ambulance and within half an hour I was in the William Harvey unit watching on screen as they carried out the procedure that took just 22 minutes.

"My pain was instantly relieved and it saved my life. Everything was so professional and calm and I was sent home after just three days and have felt great ever since".

'We welcome their caring, listening and helping efforts'

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churches, the local authority and police can make a significant difference.

"Problems do exist with some headline making anti-social behav-

"With growth we need a greater sense of community spirit and with the Street Pastors we welcome their caring, listening and helping efforts".

His message was supported by police Chief Inspector John Frayne who said his initial fears about clerics walking through the High Street late on Friday and Saturday nights had been dismissed after speaking with colleagues in other towns.

He said: "They have a real role to

play. They reach out and are non-confrontational. They help support our efforts so I welcome the scheme."

In his keynote address the Reverend Ray Bell, from the Ascension Trust, said the pastors will work in teams of four patrolling the streets, pubs and clubs in casual clothes between 10pm and 4am.

They will target in particular younger people who feel themselves excluded and aim to build trust and provide the vulnerable with support and quality time to listen.

For details of Ashford Street Pastors contact Tom Pelham on

Town business on agenda at meeting

THE town centre partnership is holding a follow up meeting to discuss businesses issues in the town.

A spokesman for the partnership said: "Following a successful meeting in February when more than 40 people attended, the June gathering will contain an update on action points people wanted to see in place in our

business planning.

"There will also be a presentation by the Valuation Office on the Business Rating System for 2010. If you have any questions on this sub-ject, we would be pleased to pass these in advance of the meeting to the valuation officer attending so contact us at info@ashfordtep.co.uk."

The meeting will be held at the Kent Invicta of Commerce in Sevington on

Thursday June 17 at 5.45pm.

Attendees need to register by June 7 for refreshment purposes, email: info@ashfordtcp.co.uk.

Swift praise for garden displays

ONE of the television experts who presents the Chelsea Flower Show has spent a day in the Garden of England judging Kent's own version. Celebrity TV gardener Joe Swift spent last Friday in the glorious east

Kent countryside at the launch of four dramatic show gardens at Jacksons' Fencing headquarters outside Ashford

The gardens resulted from a national challenge set by the company that invited designers to use their creative flair to develop a garden that is environmentally friendly and sustainable.

The results were stunning and unlike those at the premier London showcase, were realistic and affordable for the average amateur rather than packed with exotic plants and products, with massive trees and shrubs mechanically moved into posi-

After opening the mini show site by breaking a daisy chain Mr Swift said the winners had show inspiration in creating four special and different gardens and praised the Richard

Jackson for staging the challenge. He said: "On Sunday I will begin filming for the BBC at Chelsea but this is important for the garden industry as it brings together gardeners and designers to show just what can be produced on a realistic budget using local products".

The winning designs included The Haven by Mark Smith from Ramsgate, who for 20 years worked as a green keeper in the town before working as a self-employed contractor that included caring for Ramsgate



SHOW GARDEN: One of the stunning displays

Croquet Lawns, before taking a garden design course at Hadlow College and a degree at Greenwich University.

Historians clash over plan to revamp church

BY ED HILL

THE future of St Mary's Church hangs in the balance after a hearing on Friday.

The church was transformed into a courtroom with all the trappings of the law, including gowns, wigs and cross examinations for a Commissary Court hearing.

The Commissary Court is an Anglican legal body dating back to William the Conqueror, making it the oldest court in Britain. While not as powerful as it once was, it still makes decisions about planning issues and contract disputes affecting the church.

A lot is resting on its decision, not only for the church building itself but for the town's future.

The Rev Colin Preece and many of his congregation, along with Ashford council, want to transform the inside of the church into a space that can be used for public performance and exhibitions, as well as worship.

But Chris Cooper, of the Church Yard, Ashford, and the Victorian Society, object to the changes, particularly the removal of 19th century pews from the nave.

His Honour Richard Walker is the judge (Commissary-General) who will ultimately rule on the £1.3 million re-odering of the inside of the church taking place.

Chris Cooper suggested to Rev Preece that the new plans for the interior had been done with "no sensitivity whatsoever". It was a "quick fix solution" to provide the town with a new performance space and would radically change the character of the building to its detailment. the character of the building to its detriment.

But the Rev Preece, who has been in his post for seven years, said it was a rare opportunity to spend money on the church: "The building is in need of repair. We can spend this large amount of money that we could never raise ourselves. The cost of the upkeep to the congrega-tion is a terrible burden. The flexibility will enable traditional worship. The Victorians added pews to suit their liturgical needs of the day. We are just doing the same.

Although not objecting totally to the changes, the Victorian Society argued whether it was really necessary to remove the pews from the centre section of the church.

The society's barrister Mark Blackett-Ord said: "The society feels this is a cheap modernisation and the inside of the church will be spoilt. The case in favour is terribly weak."

However, barrister John Gallagher, repre-

senting those in favour of the changes, said the Victorian Society had already agreed to the removal of trip hazards such as heating pipes next to the pews and access for disabled people.

He said: "None of the

works will affect the church in an adverse way. Of course it will look different. It is a living, developing building for the use of the community. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with the local authority and further the mission of the church."
The Commissary

General said he hopes to make his decision by the



DESIGNS: The new interior

of St Mary's Church

Rare vehicle is recovered by road

A SIX-wheeled quad bike worth £8,000 has been recovered after it was taken from a farm in Woodchurch.

It was part of a haul that also included horse equipment worth £2,000.

The burglary took place during the early hours of May 18. A five bar gate worth £500 was smashed during the raid. The damaged quad bike was found later the same day in Coldblow Lane by local officer, PC Justin Farrow.

He said: "I saw the vehicle on the side

of the road. I checked the crime reports for stolen vehicles, confirmed it had been stolen and recovered it. Six-wheeled quad bikes are not that common.'

"I spoke to a witness who had seen the quad bike being ridden earlier in the day

by a white man wearing a yellow T-shirt."
Police would like to speak to anyone who has information, call 01622 690690, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

PCSOs find bike hidden in woods

POLICE have seized a motor bike abandoned in woodland in The Warren.

PCSO Luke Sykes and PCSO Dan Smith followed a man on the bike when he was seen riding it in Warren Road and

then into the country park.

The bike is a racing bike designed for competition and illegal to use on public roads. The use of motorcycles is also banned in the Warren.

The officers found the bike hidden under bushes and seized it.

PCSO Sykes said: "We have had complaints from local residents about off-road bikes being used at the Warren and so we are keeping a close eye on the area."

The incident happened on Friday, May 7, at about 7pm.

Free festival to Create a fun family atmosphere

MORE than 40 bands will be playing at this year's Create Festival along with other entertainment.

Acts on the four music stages include Green Day tribute act Green Date, who will be headlining on the main stage, indie folk singer on the main stage, indie folk singer
Nic Bennett on the Regency
Marquee Stage and local band Flat
Lung on the Right Track stage.

More than 5,000 people are
expected to turn up for the free festival on Sunday, July 25.

Create Festival is sponsored by

Create Festival is sponsored by Ashford council, Right Track Music School, Audio Energy and Regency

There will also be record spinners on the DJ Annexe Stage headlined by Adam White. Other entertainment includes a large hog roast, barbecue, food stalls, fun fair, beer tent and cocktail bar.

Local artist Oliver Winconek will also be doing a live paint on the day. Organisers say people can bring

their own food but no glass will be allowed into the festival.

For more information go to www.myspace.com/createfestival.

Development works to link up the town

WORK on a key project to promote the town's growth plans is about to begin.

Kent County Council has just signed a contract with the construc-tion company Volker Fitzpatrick to start on the link road Victoria Way to the south of the town centre.

Planners hope the project will pave the way for substantial business and

commer cial development in the area.

Judith Armitt, managing director of Ashford's Future,

is the most significant project to start in Ashford since the ring road and

the new shared space.

Together with the works to junction 9 of the M20 and Drover's roundabout this will not only improve traffic flow it will also allow developers to invest in extra jobs, homes and leisure opportunities.

The tree-lined avenue will include wide pavements cycle and traffic turning lanes, landscaping and the opportunity for new shops, restau-

The road itself and some of the landscaping will be completed by March 2011.

The new route will run from Victoria Road opposite the railway through old industrial land to join the A28 near Great Chart.

The centrepiece of the first phase will be the new Wallis Square outside Victoria

Road Primary School.

Council leader Paul Bartlett said: "It is a very exciting development

which will improve access to the town centre, create a new vibrant square and encourage inward investment to an area that has been negelected for a good number of years.

The project has been given £16.5 million in community infrastructure funding from the Communities and Local Government Department and the Department of Transport.

The Homes and Communities Agency have overall responsibility for its delivery.





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PACKED: There was standing room only at the meeting at Bockhanger Community Centre to discuss housing

250 say 'no' to home plan which ruins countryside

MORE than 250 people attended a meeting to oppose plans for 1.200 new homes in Kennington.

Residents say the plan proposed by Ashford council will ruin the countryside in a Special Landscape Area.

They have named their campaign Avatar after the movie of the same name where the blue Navi people fight to protect their homeland from destruction.

During the meeting at Bockhanger Community Centre, residents heard from a number of experts and local people.

Winston Michael, chairman of the action group, said: "All these extra homes will put an unbearable strain on local schools and healthcare facilities.

"Residents do not feel that they have been properly consulted on these plans, nor do they feel they have been given a proper opportunity to comment to Ashford Borough Council, so this meeting was an effort to redress the balance."

Kennington resident Ken Blanshard, a former district council leader and leading member of the South East strategic planning body SERPLAN, said he felt the Kennington North proposals were flawed for two reasons.

He said: "In the past, councils have found that peripheral housing development on BY **ED HILL**

green field sites and alongside by-passes and ring-roads, has led to the wide-spread decline

"For that reason all councils are now under a clear duty to plan for such housing development in sustainable locations, and to exhaust brownfield sites before using greenfield sites.

Secondly, there is the additional problem of heavy lorries getting from the A251 to the A28 as well as the M20 on cramped and narrow roads, causing local road safety hazards, environmental damage, pollution and annoy-

The proposals show 600 homes could be built on farmland in Kennington North and another 600 erected on the recreation ground where Ashford Hockey Club currently has its facilities. They also include a possible link road between the A251 and A28

Protect Kent has also objected to the proposals. Brian Lloyd from the group said the council's own planning policy was to give long-term protection to conservation and enhancement of natural beauty over other

planning considerations.

A petition with 150 signatures opposing the plans was also made to hand to council

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the path of the vehicle.

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by a 4x4.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hit-and-run driver hunted

A YOUNG mother crossing the road with her baby has narrowly missed being run down

The 24-year-old was crossing Nettlefield Road in Kennington when a dark coloured

4x4 driven by a man came along the road. The driver did not stop and the woman was forced to push the pram with her baby out of

She was hit by the car and knocked to the

PC Michael Baksh said: "Fortunately she

"It was a very frightening experience. I am

The hit and run happened at 1.45pm on

If you have information call police on 01622

690690 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

keen to speak to anyone who may have seen this dark coloured 4x4 type vehicle."

only sustained bruising as a result of this col-

Robberies suspect bailed

POLICE have arrested an 18-year-old in connection with three robberies in Ashford committed by a man on a bike.

The Ashford man has been questioned and released on bail until June 20. He has been quizzed in relation to three robberies in which women had their handbags or purses grabbed by a man on a bike.

The last attack happened in Kingsnorth Road on Wednesday, May 5, at about 12.20pm. The first robbery was on April 26 in Beaver Road and the second was on May 4 also in Kingsnorth Road.

Tribute to wrestling coach

WRESTLING trainer to the stars Andre Baker has died at the age of 45.

Nicknamed The Sledgehammer, Mr Baker ran the former NWA-UK Hammerlock School in the town. Past students include TNA wrestler Douglas Williams and former WWE stars Paul Burchill and Katie Lea.

Several wrestling news sites are reporting that Mr Baker committed suicide last weekend, but this has not been confirmed.

Former student Dean Ayass paid tribute to his mentor in The Sun. He said: "It's so sad that you left us so early, but your legacy lives on in the work of those you gave a start to."



New PCSO happy to hear your concerns

RESIDENTS of Park Farm and Knights Park have a new Police Community Support Officer.

Pauline Stevens began covering the area just a few weeks ago. Before becoming a PCSO she worked for Kent County Council and the NHS as a community involvement worker.

She said: "As people are getting to know me they are coming to me to talk about problems or concerns they may have.
"I enjoy the fact that every day is different and

I get to meet lots of people."

To contact PCSO Stevens phone 01233 896332.



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Baby monkey is saved by park staff's quick actions

BY **ED HILL**

A BABY Colobus monkey at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park is back with his mother and doing well after an uncertain start in life.

The newborn male, named Sobek, was found by keepers collapsed on the floor of his enclosure. He was breathing irregularly so he was rushed to the park's resident vet Jane Hopper. She said: "It was immediately clear that

Sobek was very weak. "He was put on intravenous fluids straight

away and given glucose.
"It was a tense wait, but within five minutes he started moving a tiny bit, and within an hour was almost back to normal and was able to take fluids from a syringe

"For some reason Sobek had been unable to feed from his mother for some time and had collapsed due to low blood sugar (hypoglycaemia) and dehydration.

Head primate keeper Simon Jeffrey hand-fed Sobek throughout that night. The next morning the veterinary team sedated his mother, Sonsa in order to check she had milk.

Ms Hopper said: "We latched him on to her teat and gradually woke up his mother, and he hasn't looked back.

Sobek is now out and about in the monkey's



CONSTANT CARE:

Hand-feeding by head primate keeper Simon Jeffrey saved black and white Colobus monkey Sobek until he was able to feed from his mother again

open-topped enclosure with his mother, father Tyr and the rest of the family group. Sobek was named, like his entire family group, after an Egyptian god.

Port Lympne has more than 20 black and white Colubus monkeys, which live in small family groups in forests across eastern Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon and eastwards to South West Sudan and Uganda.

Mr Jeffrey said: "It's great to see Sobek enjoying himself with the other youngsters after a bit of a shaky start in life. The Colobus love the warmer weather so are currently basking in

the sun. Intervention is always a last resort, but I am glad Jane and the team stepped in and we were able to give this monkey a chance

For more information on visiting the Colobus monkeys at Port Lympne and the work of the Aspinall Foundation with rare and endangered primates visit www.aspinallfoundation.org

When Sobek is older he will develop black adult colours with a distinctive mantle of long white fur across his shoulders and lower back, and long white tuft on his tail.

The animals are threatened in the wild by logging, deforestation and hunting.

Cyclists' £30,000 hospice challenge

A 70-MILE bike ride around Kent has raised more than £30,000 for charity.

The money came from first Cycle Challenge organised in aid of the Pilgrims Hospices.

 $\bar{\text{More}}$ than 600 cyclists donned their lycra outfits to cycle 70 miles between the three hospices in Ashford, Canterbury and Thanet.

They were joined by Olympic gold medallist Jamie Staff, right, who provided plenty encouragement to his fellow cyclists. Among these were Team Pilgrims from Pilgrims Hospices, including doctors, nurses, supincluding port staff and volunteers.

At each hospice forget-me-not flowers were scattered as a mark of remembrance by friends and relatives who had been helped by the hospice service.

Jamie Staff said: "I was so impressed at the number of people who took part in the Cycle Challenge. There was such an enthusiastic atmosphere at each hospice and a real sense of camaraderie.

"It was a humbling experience and really accentuated how important the Hospices services are'

Fund-raising manager Deborah Kellond said: "Many people had been in training for weeks, and despite sore bottoms and exhausted limb, everyone returned in good spirits knowing that they had done something incredible."

For details of upcoming events please visit www.pilgrimshospice.org.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

ALAN TERRY



What new exhibits do you have for this year?

The first new display that we have is a load of items given to us by a metal detector enthusiast. All the items that he has given us come from the area. He has been doing it for quite a while so there must be about three or four hundred different objects, such as coins and tools.

We have an exhibition to mark the hundredth anniversary of the girl guides. The local troupe have come in and made an exhibition about the history of the Ashford branch.

Upstairs we also have an exhibit on four decades of Ashford which include the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. It is made up of various pictures from the time, although we do not have so much on the sixties. It seems there was not much going on in the town then.

The final new exhibit is about the local fire brigade. At one time it was thought to have been the oldest in the country but we then found out they were just beaten by Hythe down the road by a few months.

What is the history of the museum?

We opened in 1989. We are housed in the first Grammar School in Ashford next to the tourist information centre in St Mary's Churchyard. The one built to replace it has since been pulled down. We are effectively charged a peppercorn rent by the council to be

in the building. We have slowly built up the collection to what it is today and we are staffed entirely by volunteers.

Where do you get most of your exhibits from?

Most come from local people. Now people know that we are here they do bring items in. If they find old pictures for example they come to us and we can see if we can help them. I would say a big percentage of the stuff that we have is on display at the moment.

Would you like more space?

It would be good to have more space but we do like being in such an old historic building. It is also in a very good location right in the town centre. It is great when we have American tourists come in to be able to tell them the building was built in 1635. That really impresses them. We also get visitors from Australia and Europe and we have a regular group over from a school in Belgium each year. The main problem we have is storage.

What is your favourite object in the collection?

I think my favourite exhibit is the fourteenth century French Thrusting Sword. It was found in Chilmington in a quarry about three years ago. It's a big thing about three feet long. It was designed for thrusting at your opponent rather than duelling. It is in excellent condition. We don't know how it ended up in Ashford. Whether it was thrown away or lost we just don't know. We suspect that it was brought back by some English traveller or soldier in an old campaign in the past.

What exhibits are you working on in the future?

For next year we hope to do something on the two prisoner of war camps that were in Stanhope. We have a clock that was made by the German prisoners while they were there. Just after we put it on show a former prisoner came in and said, "Good Lord I was there when that was being made". It was built from anything they could scrounge at the time. It does still work but it makes a real racket so we don't wind it up very often.

We also want to do something about the school there and are looking at doing an exhibition about smuggling in the area. We also hope to do something on the barracks at Barrow Hill and something about Repton Manor.

If anyone can help us with those topics we would like to hear from them.

When is the museum open and how can people find out more?

We are open from April to November between 10 and 1pm. Anyone who wants to find out more, or who might be interested in volunteering, can call 01233 631511.

Alan Terry, the curator at Ashford Museum, talks to **Ed Hill** about what is currently on display, all the interesting pieces they get from local people and what is in store for the public to see in the future

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- 1pm 1.30pm. A chance to question senior NHS staff on a 'Question Time' panel
- Copies of the Agenda and papers will be available on our website, please visit www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk

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Planners consider £10m garden centre scheme

BY **ED HILL**

A CONTROVERSIAL planning application to build a £10 million garden centre at the Eureka Leisure Park will be discussed by town planners tonight.

The scheme has been proposed by nationwide garden chain Dobbies, and would include a food hall, gardens, and other attractions.

The plans have already been rejected by the committee after a campaign from the Bybrook Garden Centre attracted a large online petition

against the proposals.

However, the building had been recommended to be passed by the council's own planning officer.

Under new laws if a planning committee goes against the advice of its planning officer they can request that decision is deferred. This is so committee members can justify their decision in case an appeal is launched by the company.

This is the first time a planning officer in Ashford has made the request since the laws were introduced in 2008.

In a report for committee members, the portfolio holder for development management Cllr Richard Honey said the council's position was uncertain, despite the general feeling that the application was not appropriate.



DECISION TIME: The controversial garden centre proposed by Dobbies is on land originally designated for leisure use

He said: "I would much prefer this site to be put to a more meaningful use than a garden centre. However, the question really comes down to whether or not this scheme is so objectionable on this site in land use planning terms that it should not be permitted. I personally doubt that to be the case.
"Members will need to examine the evidence

on the need for employment land very carefully to ensure that their decision is soundly-based and defensible on appeal.'

The land at Eureka Park had been outlined for leisure uses such as an ice rink or skate park. Employment for the area was hoped to be mainly office-based workers rather than retail.

But Dobbies, which is part of the Tesco group, says competition with other independent retailers does not represent a reason to refuse their plans. They say their scheme, which also has the backing of the local chamber of commerce, will create 120 jobs in the area.

The planning officer has recommended that the council's main justification for refusing the application should be on the grounds that it will not create the right type of employment. They may also mention possible traffic congestion and a garden centre not qualifying as



Pupils' fresh look at Jacobean tragedy

ASHFORD Youth Theatre recently performed their production of Tis Pity She's a Whore by John Ford.

The group updated the Jacobean tragedy, first performed in 1629, to the 1920s. The cast is made up of performers from all of the town's secondary schools.

Organiser Stella Critchley who organises the group said: "Jacobean plays have a very dark side but the play is also very funny. We have a very talented cast.'

Folk club welcomes transatlantic guest

THE Tenterden Folk Club will welcoming David Jones from America at its next session at the White Lion Pub.

Folk singer Mr Jones is originally from England but now lives in New Jersey.

He has a large repertoire of traditional and contemporary folksongs from both sides of the Atlantic.

The show will be in the Saddlery at The White Lion Hotel on the High Street from 8pm on Tuesday, June 29. Tickets cost £7 on the door or £6 in advance from Tenterden Folk Festival. Email info@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk telephone 01233 626805.

BOTH STORES

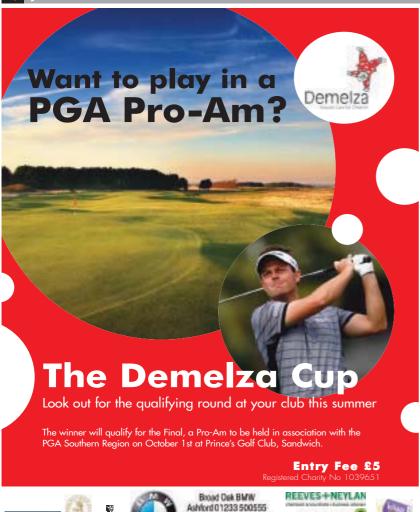


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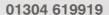


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THE night of the first leaders' debate in Manchester was just about the most surreal of my life.

The debate itself took place in Granada Studios, a few hundred yards down the road from the plush surroundings of the Hilton Hotel - home to 'Spin Alley' - which is where I spent the evening.

This was a vast, high-ceilinged, wood-panelled chamber with a huge cinema screen at one end, in front of two dozen rows of desks where the hundred-odd hacks from national and international newspapers and casters tapped away ferociously at their lap-

At the back of the room, scaffolding was set up for the BBC, ITV and Sky News to broadcast from, and space for the reporters to hobnob with politicians and spin doctors while TV and radio producers scuttled around.

I was there as part of the Lib Dem team, my main task being to negotiate my way round the room with the now Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne, mingling with the journos, making sure he was in the right place for the Newsnights, Skys and 5 Lives, and discussing the night's star turn by Nick Clegg.

We watched the debate on a flat-screen TV in our private green room behind the main chamber, alongside Paddy Ashdown, Vince Cable, Danny Alexander and colleagues from the press office, chewing tiny egg and cress sandwiches and processed ham wraps.

Applause

To be honest, it was hard to keep any real sense of perspective as the debate went on.

There was much pacing around and whispering in ears, as well as the odd cheer and applause when Nick came out with a great line or a well-made argument.

As it went on, we all had the sense that Nick was doing well – we were watching the ITV 'worm', the online polls and the reaction on Twitter – but what did people watching at home think?

Nick, despite all the plaudits that came his way following his performance, started with a huge disadvantage. The Liberal Democrats, to put it bluntly, didn't have the luxury of being able to import expensive advisers from the Obama campaign, or any other, as Labour and the Tories did.

Nick's preparation, in which I played only a minor part, was carried out very much inhouse and from scratch.

But it seemed to work. As the debate drew to a close, we prepared to head back to Spin Alley to put our side of events across to the journalists and broadcasters in the hope it would be reflected in the instant coverage and the following morning's papers.

The room, which had been crowded, but relatively quiet before the debate, was now a fullblown media circus.

Everywhere you looked there were secretaries of state, Alastair Campbells and Charlie Whelans, George Osbornes and William Hagues, surrounded by crowds half-a-dozen deep of cameramen and hacks scribbling away in shorthand and shouting their questions.

We were surrounded as we entered and it was clear from the first questions that people

History was being made before my very eyes



Two years ago reporter PHIL REILLY left KOS Media for his dream job – to be a press officer at Liberal Democrat Party HQ. A passionate supporter of the party, even he did not foresee the General Election would produce a Cabinet with five Lib Dem members. Here, he gives an exclusive behind-thescenes account of the first televised leaders' debate that started the bandwagon which ended with Nick Clegg named as Deputy Prime Minister



had seen the debate the same way we had. Nick Clegg had won, and won convincingly.

This was reinforced as the first instant polls

flooded in, which spread through the room in a mass game of Chinese whispers.

All of a sudden Peter Mandelson wafted into

I was several feet away with my back to him, but I noticed all the journalists in my peripheral vision scurrying in the same direction. A huge huddle enveloped him - all camera lenses, raised hands and shrieked fragments of questions.

For a few minutes he held them all rapt as he repeated his pre-prepared line – that Nick had won on style, but Brown on substance – and then he wafted away again as quickly as he had arrived.

As the mêlée continued I found myself barged by Cabinet ministers, glared at by opposition spin doctors, gossiping with BBC correspondents and shooting the breeze with Theresa May's aide as we waited for our charges to finish debating on Newsnight.

Soon enough the print journalists wrapped up, their copy filed, and headed, presumably, for the hotels and bars of central Manchester.

The broadcasters continued their work for another hour or two, but slowly the number of people milling around behind them dwindled and everyone went their separate ways.

It was all quite a lot to take in.

For two years leading up to this point, my job had been to fight for every scrap of coverage

possible for the Lib Dems in newspapers and on television.

The media is used to seeing everything as a tug-of-war between Labour and the Tories, especially with the prospect of a close election and a change of government looming, so airtime and column inches were hard to come by.

In an hour and a half of primetime television all that changed, and as the evening progressed that fact slowly dawned on me.

As we packed away our laptops in the green room afterwards Paddy Ashdown came in to congratulate us all.

But he also sounded a note of caution, warning us that Nick's success would make him a target as never before.

Despite this, my press office colleagues and I stumbled our way back to the nearby Premier Inn at around midnight, excitedly trying to read the next day's front pages on BlackBerries and iPhones.

Headlines

What happened in the days and weeks that followed – 'Cleggmania', the bizarre 'Clegg in Nazi Slur on Britain' headlines, the two debates, the press conferences, the round-theclock campaigning, the journalists and photographers camped outside the office, election night and the disappointment that the surge subsided as people's pencils hovered over the ballot papers, the 'big, open and comprehensive offer', the days and nights of negotiations with the Conservatives and Labour, the coalition agreement, the announcement of Cabinet posts and the special conference - all passed so quickly that now it all seems one long blur.

I've barely had a full night's sleep since the campaign began, so it's hard to take stock of it all right now.

It has been the most full-on, exhilarating and exhausting experience of my life. Now, of course, comes the governing.

I don't suppose it's going to get much easier.

Working towards changing young lives

IT WAS a day many young people with learning and physical disabilities will remember as one that changed their lives.

Organised by the Education Business Partnership (EBP), a small, Thanet-based charity, more than 800 children from 41 special schools and colleges were ferried from across Kent for an day of exploration and hope for the future at The Rare Breeds Centre in Woodchurch, near Ashford.

Their mission was to develop skills and employment opportunities for those who face more life challenges than most.

It gave the chance for students to take part in hands-on activities with potential employers and speak to professionals about the multitude of career paths available, despite disabil-

Executive director Anne McNulty, said: "To have so many young people together to find out that they are not alone in facing life's challenges was fantastic.

This event proves to Kent employers – and we have links with 14,000 companies – how wonderful it is to have a special person on the staff and convince them to give more opportunities for the disabled."

The Canterbury Oast Trust-run charity visitor attraction is a shining example of what can be done.

They have created almost 100 worthwhile jobs for those not able to cope for themselves outside a safe and supportive environment.

They aim to empower individuals to reach their potential, nurture their aspirations, draw out talent to develop self esteem, independence and a sense of achievement.

Evidence was available for all to see and be inspired by as the disabled cared for the animals, delivered the catering services, were growing and selling plants, and serving in the retail outlets, bringing them into contact with the public and helping to break down barriers and foster greater understanding of

Others are trained in arts and crafts, computer skills, and woodland management and crafts.

Sky enjoys the party at greyhound anniversary

A GREYHOUND rescue group celebrated its first anniversary and 100th re-homed dog this month.

Pet owners gathered for a party, where greyhound Sky was the centre of attention. He shared sausages, dog biscuits and a gallop around the paddock with other rescued hounds from across the county.

The charity found a loving home for ex-racer Sky in Herne Bay. He ended up at Kent Greyhound Rescue in March.

Sky is an unusual dog with a blueish coat with small white 'snowflake' patches throughout. He had been suffering from malnutrition and was very reserved due to his training. He now lives with new owners, Dan and Annie.

Kent Greyhound Rescue raised more than £500 towards helping unwanted, abandoned and mistreated dogs by holding a raffle and selling limited edition puppyganda clothing.

Visit www.kentgreyhoundrescue.com for information about re-homing a greyhound.

ourashfordschools

BREAK TIME

George swings into first place in comp

A YOUNG golfer from the Towers School has claimed first place in Kent Schools Tournament.

George Woollaston was taking part with fellow Towers pupil Toby Owen at the tournament held at Bearsted Golf Club. **TEE TIME:** George He said: "We were



both feeling unsure Woollaston as to what the day had in store for us. As my name was called to the first tee I was really nervous but I managed to calm myself down and I didn't make any major mistakes

"As I finished my round I was very happy with my gross score of 75, net 69, and was surprised to see where I was on the leader board. I was very proud to represent the Towers School.

New principle to start at Homewood

A NEW principle will be taking over at Homewood School and Six Form Centre in Tenterden in August

Sally Lees is replacing William Cotterall in the post and has already visited several times since her appointment to get to know the staff and students.

Mr Cotterall says he wants to ensure the handover is as seamless as possible so that learning focus is not interrupted.

Students make ground in creating wooden designs

BY **ED HILL**

STUDENTS at the Ashford School of Art and Design have been given the chance to come up with ideas for wooden playgrounds.

Maidstone firm, Plane and Simple, were looking for new ideas to inspire children in the playgrounds they make.

Owner, Nigel Moon, said: "We were looking for great concepts that we could then manufacture. For the students, it has been about showing them how to transfer a great idea into something that is practical to make in our workshop. I think they struggled at the start to understand the constraints of working with wood but if they didn't get to grips with that then their plans would remain dreams and never become reality."

Plane and Simple have wooden playgrounds in schools and leisure parks across the country. The concepts were aimed at children aged five to 11 years-old.

The 3D design students made scale models to present to the company at the college's Henwood Campus

Ben Hilliar from Ashford, incorporated nesting boxes and feeding areas for different animals at different heights in his model.

He said: "I tried to do it as near as you would do it in the factory by doing it with the panels that they use there, allowing for a tree to be inside it already, but also for a tree to be grown up the middle.

First year course lecturer, Martin Dodkins, said this was the first time they had worked with an employer in this way.



PLAY TIME: Back row, from left, Hannah Knott, Plane and Simple, Ben Hilliar and Lawrence Swan, students, Nigel Moon and Sarah Wickham, Plane and Simple, and Martin Dodkins, first year course lecturer. Front row, from left. students, Ali Karim, Natalie Lacey, Nurjahan Begum and Scott Beaumont, all show off their designs

"Students have grown very quickly in a very short space of time. They've had to learn to take criticism from professionals as opposed to tutors," he said.

The company presented students with £25 iTunes vouchers to say thank you for their work and says a number of the ideas may

Lawrence Sawn, 24, from Tenterden, said: "It was a fantastic opportunity to work with this company because this is what we're going to be doing in future.

"What we've learned in five months on this project, other people would have had to wait until they went to University to get the chance

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Fears plans to rebuild schools will be ditched

Kent schools currently

receiving BSF funding

Charles Dickens School, Broadstairs
 Community College Whitstable,

Dane Court Grammar School, Broadstairs

Herne Bay High School, Herne Bay
 King Ethelbert School, Birchington
 Northfleet School for Girls,

Northfleet Technology College,

oravesend
St George's CE Foundation School,
Broadstairs (completed)
St John's Catholic Comprehensive
School, Gravesend
Thamesview School, Gravesend

BY MARIJKE COX

A BILLION pound project which would see every secondary school in the county rebuilt or refurbished could be scrapped under the new Government's plans.

Ten of the 36 planned schools have started construction work and have contracts to finish the buildings, but the future could look bleak for the majority of Kent and Medway's secondary schools.

The celebrated Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project was introduced by Labour in 2005-06, in a bid to improve every secondary centre in the country.

And with Kent's overall BSF programme – the largest building scheme in Europe – worth an estimated £1.8 billion, County Hall officials believed it could transform 21st century education.

Last September, Tory Kent County Council leader Paul Carter praised the new schools initiative, stating it would give the county's young people first-class facilities.

But after the Con-Lib coalition took over government, spending plans under BSF – £55bn nationally – look set for review, with fears funding could be mas-

sively reduced.

Education chiefs are worried some of the cash outlined for the BSF programme could be used on academies - which are statefunded, but established and managed by sponsors – as well as the Tories' proposed 'free schools'.

These free schools would be state-funded, but set up by private organisations or parent and teacher groups to compete with state schools in a bid to drive up standards.

Despite initial praise from Cllr Carter for BSF, he told this newspaper he agreed with new education secretary Michael Gove, who called for a review of the scheme.

Cllr Carter said: "Whichever party came into government it's most unlikely we would have had the same amount of money due to spending cuts that need to be made. I'm expecting a cut of 25-35 per cent for BSF."

Competition

Two weeks before the General Election Cllr Carter revealed his fears to the BBC over the free schools policy and academies, claiming they could threaten the local schools' budgets.

But he retracted his comments, claiming he was 100 per cent behind the then-shadow education secretary Michael Gove's plans. He told KOS Media this week: "There is no

disagreement between myself and Mr Gove. "As long as there is fair competition and fair funding across the board, I think it's good to introduce some competition between schools."

But school heads not yet to sign contracts under the BSF programme fear if the scheme is scrapped they may not get their muchneeded refurbishments.

Already £500m has been secured in Kent from Partnership for Schools, which is responsible for government's capital invest-

ment projects. Andrew Somers is headteacher



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Work on some of the 36 new-look secondary schools is under way, or even finished

Hartsdown Technology College in Margate, one of the schools in the second wave of BSF without a signed contract.

"It would be a massive disappointment if it doesn't go ahead," he said.

"It would put us at a huge disadvantage against schools that have been refurbished. We can't deliver the new curriculum without these facilities.

"We're in one of the most deprived areas in Kent. Our school was built in the 1950s with flat roofs which leak - the sports hall roof cost £45,000 to repair.

"Without repairs we'd have to struggle on,

but it's unfair on the pupils and staff."

Just down the road from Hartsdown is St George's CofE Foundation School in Broadstairs, one of the first to be completed under the BSF programme.

Headteacher Kim Stoner said the rebuild was "inspiring", with £1 million of ICT facilities and new

open learning areas.
"This is the start of a new future for the school where everybody can realise their aspirations," she said.

Although Mrs Stoner would not comment on the possible axing of BSF funding, she admitted it would be disappointing for any schools to miss out.

Kent independent education advisor Peter

Read echoed her words and said he would be furious if funding for BSF was cut with academies and free schools going ahead

He said: "We are in a government financial crisis. I can understand the reduction in BSF, but to continue vast funding for academies while other schools in poor conditions are not being repaired is unforgivable. Funding for a new academy is more expensive at around £35m, whereas a BSF school is £20m.

"But Michael Gove sees it that if he scraps BSF and supports academies and free schools he still saves money."

Mr Read also hit out at the free schools policy, stating the centres would only benefit

middle-class areas.
"Who is going to set up a school in a deprived area? And yet these are the places in greatest need," he said.

A statement from Partnership for Schools stated the Department for Education had not yet made a decision on BSF funding, but admitted the Government would be undertaking a full comprehensive spending review.

"Ministers will shortly be considering their spending priorities, which will take into account all areas of spending, including schools capital."



Endangered purple herons find sanctuary

A NESTING pair of purple herons have set up home in Dungeness – the first time in the UK.

The striking birds breed in southern Europe and visit the UK in small numbers each year.

But the nesting pair on the Dungeness peninsula are set to be the first to lay eggs and raise young in the

country.

The RSPB has set up a round-the-clock guard to protect the birds, with the help of Kent Police.

Samantha Dawes, the RSPB's conservation manager in the South East, said: "Purple herons are high up on the list of birds that we expect to see setting up home in southern Britain as the changing climate pushes them further north."

Meanwhile the RSPB says the Dungeness nature reserve is under threat by the proposed expansion of Lydd airport – claims strongly denied by airport

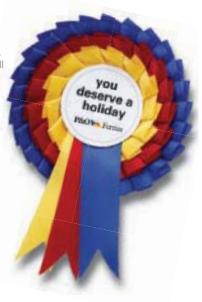


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YOUR LETTERS



Hadlum Court staff cared for my father

Following on from your article titled "Son's anguish at fire safety risks" I felt compelled to write to you to clarify some of the points raised by Mr Gower which I felt were unjustified and painted a far from truthful picture of the care offered by Joseph Hadlum Court staff.

The fire which occurred on the night of Monday, May 3 was caused by my father dropping a cigarette as we believe he fell asleep. I would like to inform you that the fire brigade said staff at Joseph Hadlum should be commended for their actions as they behaved quickly and professionally, following their fire evacuation procedures. Thankfully he was saved by Clive Douglas, a courageous fire fighter, however he has been severely burnt and will be in intensive care for quite some time. Hopefully he will be able to return to Joseph Hadlum Court where he has been very happy and well cared for by the staff.

At no point was there a risk to other residents and it has been noted that had he been in social housing there would have been no one to raise the alarm which could have resulted in a much greater risk to himself and neighbouring properties.

The care offered at Joseph Hadlum Court is of a sheltered accommodation set-up with extra care. This means that all the residents have their own apartments with a heightened level of care available if needed, enabling them to come and go as they please and live as independent a life as possible. As such, staff can't possibly be expected to police people when it comes to such habits as smoking in the privacy of their own homes.

It is not a care home where residents only have a room and eat in communal areas. To this end residents have their own kitchens or can eat in the restaurant with the other residents where a three course meal is provided from the centre at a cost of £1.75 per day. I wonder how many other residents claim the food to be of poor quality as my father certainly never did, nor did I when I have joined him.

Those needing the extra care, as did my father are assessed for their needs via social services and a care plan package is set in place with costs involved to the client. If at any time I felt that my father was paying for care that was inadequate or that he was receiving poor treatment from the staff, I can

yourblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Ashford.



THE tragic suicide of Vicky Harrison has been much in the news.

Despite having 10 GCSEs, A-C, and three A-levels, she was unable to find a job despite applying for 200 positions. Sad? Yes. But understandable, perhaps.

positions. Sad? Yes. But understandable, perhaps. Recently, a maths exercise book that had been used by the Prince of Wales at Gordonstoun in 1963 when he was 14 came to light.

Prince Charles failed his maths O-level first time round but passed the following year. A pass at O-level was equivalent to a C or better at GCSE today.

The work in the book was assessed by a professor at Plymouth University without knowledge of the owner's name. He commented that the level was at least an A grade today, with some of it now being in the A-level syllabus. And this without the aid of calculators or computers.

This disparity raises some pertinent questions as to the value of modern qualifications.

If a scraped pass in 1965 would now be rated at least grade A, what is the real level of grades B and C? Come to that, how would modern A-levels compare in standard with those of more than 40 years ago?

At the time Prince Charles was at school, I attended a direct-grant grammar school — an independent school that received a grant for accepting the brightest pupils from state primaries. The academic level was very high and pardon my scepticism, but I do not think that the modern generation are any

more intelligent than we were, all that time ago! More likely that the courses are more superficial and the exams less rigorous.

I blame successive governments forgiving pupils inflated perceptions of their abilities.

In the 1980s, combining O-level with the C.S.E.

In the 1980s, combining O-level with the C.S.E. (Certificate of Secondary Education) was a good thing—it gave a level playing field. So too was the concept of the National Curriculum. If politicians had just stopped there, things would have been fine. But no, they had to keep meddling. Under the Thatcherite doctrines of privatisation and market forces, schools had to pretent to be businesses, striving for custom. Then there were blanket 'targets' — externally applied — which failed to differentiate between Education Authorities that retained selection and those that didn't. Combine targets with League Tables, and one has the pernicious situation that encourages schools effectively to cheat and place more emphasis on published exam results than the optimal education for each pupil.

We have ended up with thousands of graduates in obscure and woolly subjects from obscure and woolly universities. Education needs a root-and-branch clear-out and a new plan as radical as the 1944 Education Act. But we won't get it.

Poor Vicky Harrison.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Careth Arnold**, on **01303 817025** or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to **www.yourashford.co.uk**.

assure you that I would be the first to complain as would he.

All floors of the Joseph Hadlum Court have a communal television room where residents are able to gather if they wish and the court also has a gym, shop and hairdressers. There is interaction from St Mary's CofE Primary School where the pupils visit the court as well as residents visiting the school, the latest being the residents judging the Easter bonnet parade.

The court also has a very active social calendar which is published monthly and this month alone there are over 20 activities planned including bingo, a day trip, art classes and a church service to name but a few. This hardly sounds like the residents are left to do nothing if they don't have any visitors! As for pets not being allowed within the building, I am not sure where Mr Gower gets this information from. My father had a pet, as do many other residents within the court.

My father has been a smoker all his life and I do not see why people in their later years are expected to give this up. The court is as much of an apartment block as anything else, are we now expecting all elderly people living in social housing elsewhere to give up the right to smoke within their own homes?

My father and I were very happy with the care, facilities and staff at Joseph Hadlum Court and would like the public to know how much we appreciated all that they did for him whilst he was there and for the support that they have provided the family and my father since he has been in hospital

Action group

The addy to fight

Housing plan

BY DHIL

KENNINGTON residents the measure and proper team and p

Enough is enough with bad planning

It is very understandable that most Kenningtonians will object to the housing plan for the area.

Do we want these houses? No Ashford's essential services are under extreme pressure as it is now. Where are all these people going to work?

When there is development at stake, money involved, and commercial greed come to the fore, I am afraid I can't see the powers-that-be taking any notice at all of local objections. They haven't in the past, why should they do so now?

In the case of Little Burton Farm, loss of countryside, the fact that land is Grade 1 Agricultural, and that it was necessary to destroy beautiful orchards, that it was on the Flood-Plain, close to and downwind of the sewage treatment

plant, etc, was ignored. Existing properties between Spearpoint and Pen lee Point had gates in their back fence to provide access so that people could walk down to the river. All that was lost. Where is the buffer zone between the new and old development that planners promised? Where are the trees in that zone that were to be planted?

that zone that were to be planted?
Regarding the link road and given that this development is likely to go ahead, some benefit could be gained for the long-suffering residents of Canterbury Road, from Pen lee Point to Ball Lane, if a new link road were built. Traffic-calming measures could be introduced, offering some relief to Canterbury Road residents. If this plan does get the green light in full, then improvements to the quality of life in Canterbury Road must be put into effect.

The A28 is very busy, it is very much below standard, and is largely unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists. A Kennington bypass should have been built to relieve the busiest stretches of Canterbury Road years ago, but building Little Burton Farm Estate put pay to that idea. An opportunity missed. So much for intelligent planning!

Like many others, I am not happy with the notion that the building of a link road might be offered by developers as a carrot, and might influence the granting of planning permission

There are plenty of areas in England where towns have many houses standing empty, and which are crying out for revitalising and development. Leave Kennington alone; enough is enough.

alone; enough is enough.

Finally, on Saturday, May 15, I attended a meeting which was organised as a protest against plans for a housing development and a construction of a new link road from Trinity Road to the A28.The Avatar Campaign.

There was a queue to enter the venue, whilst immediately inside the entrance were tables with sheets of paper on which people were entering their names and postcodes. I did the same. I had assumed these sheets were to be used as a record of attendance, and perhaps for (as an interested party) making future contact.

However, during the course of the meeting it came to the fore some people had not realised they had actually added their names to a petition. Some of the 'audience' realising this, sorted out their sheet, and crossed their names out (One such 'I think' was Cllr Clokie).

After the meeting numerous A4 sheets were spread about on which people had written their names. Plain sheets without any identification as to the cause they related to, could so easily be purloined, or borrowed, added to, and used to fight for any other cause.

When one signs a petition, must it be signed with a valid signature, or is just the process of writing in (entering) ones name sufficient? Does it become legal?

In my view, this so called "Avatar" petition as it stands, is invalid. Whether one supports it or not. The organisers of any such campaign should start off on a valid footing.

Ted Pranquell, Kennington.

Where does land lie with new coalition?

Farmland, which has been increasing in value since spring 2009, will become even more valuable if the Conservative proposal to extend brownfield land status to land previously occupied by agricultural buildings is implemented. Allowing a wider range of uses gives owners and prospective buyers far more opportunity to bring jobs and income to rural property.

The Liberal Democrat pledge to cut subsidies from those they identify as the wealthiest recipients could have an unintended impact on rural employment, which would negate their efforts to aid poorer farmers.

their efforts to aid poorer farmers. It's unclear how the Liberal Democrat's proposal for a "food market regulator" will align with the Conservative proposal for a 'supermarket ombudsman' but the fact that both parties recognise the need for a more active approach in preventing anti-competitive practice is welcome

practice is welcome
While the rural sector broadly
welcomes the Conservative
recognition of farmland as a
valuable national resource, it is not
yet clear how the new government
will implement rules preventing
development of the most fertile
farmland or how this will affect the
value of farmland so designated.

David Hebditch, head of Chesterton Humberts rural practice

Absenteeism target

ABSENCE rates have a direct correlation with how Kent's secondary schools fare in Ofsted inspections, according to new figures.

Of the four secondary schools currently rated "inadequate" in the county, three are among the ten worst for persistent absence.

The figures were revealed in a report to members of Kenr County Council's learning and development policy overview and scrutiny committee.

Councillors were also told Kent had reached its target of no more than 5.5 per cent persistent absence a year early.

Rates of overall absenteeism have shown a year-on-year decrease from 8.19 per cent in 2006/07 to 7.63 per cent in 2008/09, which is still higher than the national average of 7.21 per cent.



KCC's scrutiny overhaul sees monthly accounts

BY STEVE KNIGHT

KENT County Council has agreed to open itself up to greater scrutiny by publishing details of its monthly accounts.

The move comes just weeks after Liberal Democrat councillors accused the ruling Conservative administration of being opposed to transparency over what it spends taxpayers' money on.

However, cabinet member for finance Cllr John Simmonds said it was something he had planned to do for some time.

"We've been working on it for a year or so," he said. "It's nothing new. The runes were there and we knew it was something both Labour and the Tories wanted nationally, so we would have been stupid to bury our heads in the sand only to then panic when it was forced upon us."

Prime Minister David Cameron has already said he intends to make it a statutory duty for local authorities to publish much more information about how public money is spent by councils.

Cllr Simmonds revealed that KCC is to develop proposals on how to publish regular accounts of its spending and that it wants to implement them within a year.

However, he said the information needed to be



BANK ON IT: Greater transparency about KCC's use of taxpayers' money will lead to monthly accounts

relevant enough to warrant the time and money spent on providing it.

He said: "The problem I have is that in the £500 or more' category, we're talking about 300,000 entries per year or almost 6,000 per week. If you toss this amount of information into the ether, who is going to look at it and will it be meaningful?

"We want it to have some purpose. We don't want to throw it all out there just so we can say

, 'Aren't we good'.

"Already with the Freedom of Information Act we receive a lot of spurious requests that are expensive to run and you're never quite sure where the individual is going with it. That's money that can be spent in better ways."

KCC came under fire last month when it was revealed that during 2008/09 County Hall had more senior officers earning in excess of £100,000 a year than any local authority in the UK.

The council also refused to name who was earning what and Cllr Simmonds said that would not change when it starts to publish monthly accounts.

He added: "I think we're going to have to provide details of people's salaries. I don't mind releasing job titles, but I hope we won't have to identify individuals.

"I doubt there are many people who would like everyone to know how much they earn."

Last month, Lib Dems accused the Tories of snubbing their request to discuss ways of publishing the council's expenses.

However, Lib Dem group leader Cllr Trudy Dean welcomed Cllr Simmonds' statements, despite his refusal to discuss the plans in public.

She said: "It's a shame he's chosen to do it in one of the committees that is private.

"It's chaired by me, I'll give him that, but if we're looking at the principles of transparency, then why can't it be held in public?"

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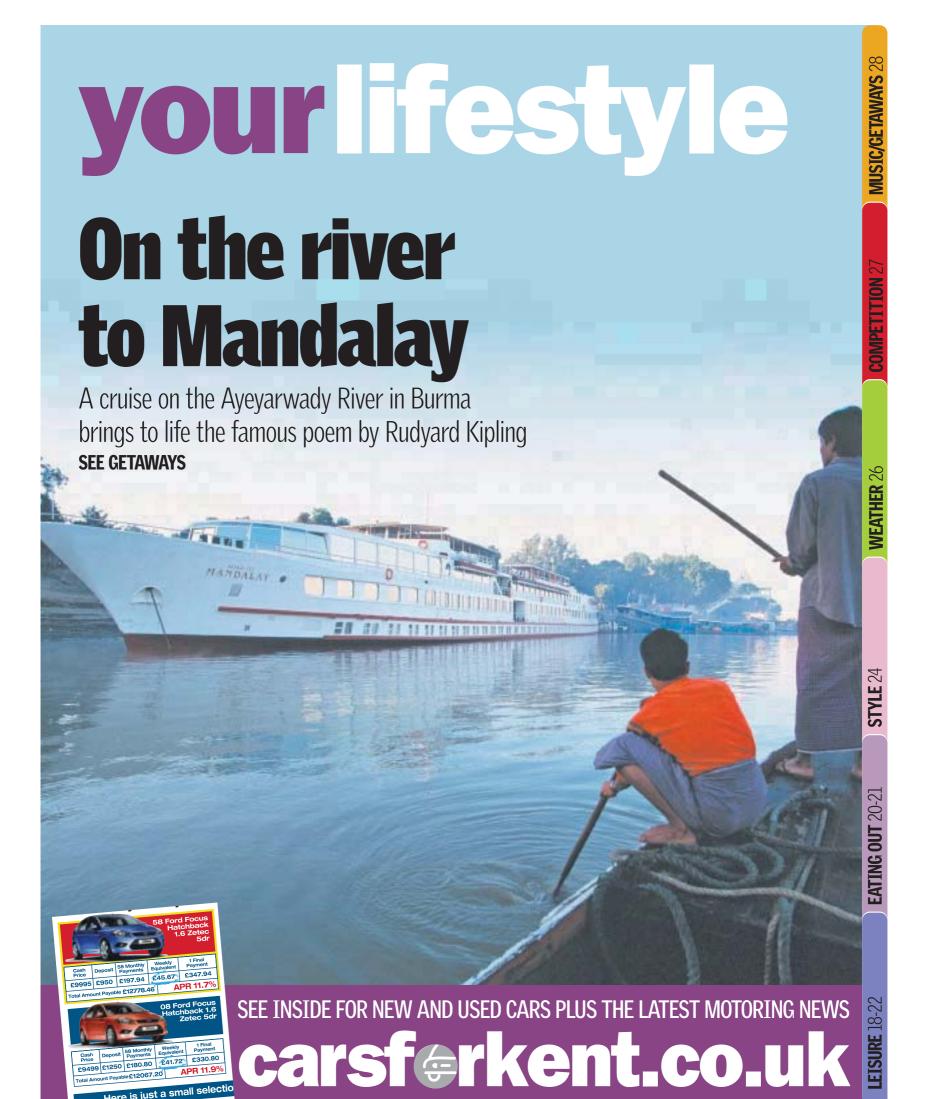
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Triple bill of laughter

SEE top comedians in action as The Comedy Club returns to Ramada Dover and Ashford International Hotel.

Three comics perform in Dover at 9pm on Thursday. Tickets cost £12 for the show or £20 with a meal. Three more appear in Ashford on Friday. Tickets cost £14/£18/£20

Call 01304 872843 to book the Dover date or 01233 219988 for Ashford or visit www.hahaheehee.com.

Find bargain on safari

DISCOVER a bargain with the Lympne Garage Sale Safari event on Sunday.

For 50p, buy a map from the village shop in Honeywood Close, which will guide visitors around the sales. Refreshments and toilets will be available at the village hall.

The event is organised by the Lympne Village Hall Comittee and runs from

Pot painting workshop

CHILDREN aged seven and above can try pottery painting at Pick 'n' Paint a Pot in Northdown Road, Cliftonville.

At 10.30am from Tuesday to Thursday the studio will run 90-minute work-

shops. Admission costs £5 per child. To find out more call 01843 297778 or visit www.picknpaintapot.co.uk.

Guitarists swing back

VERSATILE guitarists Jamie Moore and Dave Reay return to Deco 5 in Whitstable by popular demand.

Canadian-born Moore and Reay, from Maidstone, cover a range of music from jazz to Latin Swing. The performance starts at 8pm on Sunday and admission is free. For details call 01227 770079 or visit www.deco5.co.uk.

Son's dramatic debut

PHILIP Ayckbourn's first full-length play to tour the UK can be seen at the Memorial Theatre in Broadstairs.

Written by Alan Ayckbourn's son, The Essence of Love explores unlikely passions between four British tourists in Marrakech. Tickets for the play on Saturday and Sunday are £12.50/£10.50.

Call 0845 2626263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

Night out with Tommy

CELEBRATE the legacy of a comedy legend when Jus' Like That – A Night Out with Tommy Cooper visits Margate.

Clive Mantle stars in the show about the much-loved star's life and career at Theatre Royal Margate at 7.30pm on Saturday. Tickets cost £16. To book call 0845 130 1786 or 01227 787787 or visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com.

Chance of musical role

SINGERS aged between 16 and 30 are sought for the amusing musical, A Slice of Saturday Night.

The show will be staged at Ramsgate's Granville Theatre in August and auditions will be held on June 6 and 7, with a pre-audition get-together on Friday.

Call Trudi Kingham on 01843 855000 or email t.kingham1@btconnect.com.

Stand up for a festival of fun

STAND UP! FOLKESTONE COMEDY FESTIVAL

Friday, May 28 to Monday, May 31 Quarterhouse, Folkestone



ADD some belly laughs to your bank holiday weekend with the Stand Up! Folkestone Comedy Festival.

Now in its second year, the celebration of chuckles is presented by Quarterhouse and the Creative Foundation.

The event aims to bring some of the country's best stand-up comedians to Kent, as well as giving invaluable opportunities to the stars of tomorrow.

This year's festival kicks off with television star and acclaimed comic, Chris Addison, below, who will be entertaining an audience with his distinctive comedy on Friday night.

Combining whimsical observations and daft gags with 'lies and flapping about', the amiable



New and established comics queuing up to make you laugh this Bank Holiday weekend

but animated performer will take fans on a journey through his unique world.

As well as being a hit on the stand-up circuit, Addison is also a rising television and film star. He is most noted for his role as a hapless junior policy advisor, Olly Reeder, in Armando Iannucci's BBC comedy, The Thick of It.

His co-star, Peter Capaldi, has become something of an icon with his portrayal of a foulmouthed political spin doctor, and the pair reprised their roles in the BAFTA-winning film, In The Loop, which was also Oscar nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Addison also landed his own sitcom, Lab Rats, and hosts the BBC Five Live radio show, Seven Day Sunday. Friday's show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £15.

Spot the stars of the future as six rising comics battle it out for your votes at the Quarterhouse and Lonestar Comedy Young Guns Newcomers Competition.
Suzi Ruffell, Danny Ward, Carly Smallman,

Paul F Taylor, Mark Simmons each have 10 minutes to tickle those funny bones and the winner gets £100and the chance to perform at

Quarterhouse and Lonestar Clubs.
Established comic Trevor Lock will keep the audience laughing during the voting. Once a regular on Russell Brand's BBC Radio 2 show, Lock has become a popular comic on the circuit and is also a respected comedy writer.

The show starts at 10pm on Friday and tickets are £8, or £5 if bought with a ticket to see Chris Addison.

The fun continues on Saturday when Hardeep Singh Kohli, right, invites you to spend time with The Nearly Naked Chef.
The Glaswegian Sikh has a unique deliv-

ery and knows how to combine good food with great laughs in this acclaimed show.

The Nearly Naked Chef played to sold-out audiences at last year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival and now the extended, two-course version should satisfy the appetites of all comedy fans out there. Enjoy a taste of his comedy at 7.30pm on Saturday with tickets priced at

Experience the magic of Disease Hour and the hits of hospital radio DJ Ivan Brackenbury, when he rocks Quarterhouse at 8pm on Sunday. Alter ego Tom Binns has created a popular and enthusiastic personaat Brimlington General Hospital.

Described as a laugh-a-minute experience, Brackenbury's show is a comedy riot as the hospital radio presenter takes his show on the road and broadcasts back to his beloved patients in Brimlington. Tickets cost £10/£8.

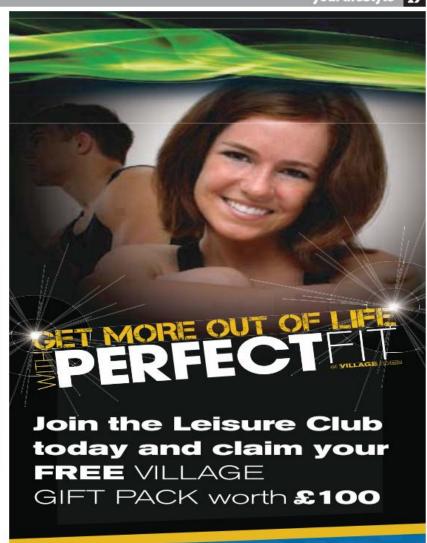
To book tickets or find out more call 01303 858500 or visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk.





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Street of Lydd on Romney Marsh.
In the relaxing atmosphere of the Green Room, you have a great choice of eating experiences. With a log fire for those colder evenings you can choose a fine bottle of wine at very reasonable prices while picking your meal from the wide and varied menu in com-

The menu boasts classic starters, six interesting vegetarian main meals as well as hearty meat dishes, a new fish menu for the summer, plenty of pasta and deliciously tempting puddings. All of the food is produced on the premises by the owners, chefs Tim and Ann Crompton, using mainly local produce.

Highly recommended by its customers, the Green Room Restaurant offers great choice at very reasonable prices. So whatever the occasion, be it a celebration or just a treat, this can be an experience to remember.

A loyalty scheme is currently operating, so you get rewarded for return visits.

Bookings can be made on 01797 321710 or online at www.thegeorgelydd.com.

The George Hotel, 11 High Street, Lydd, Kent, TN29 9AJ. Telephone: 01797 321710









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Starter: Angels on horseback - Whitstable Bay oysters wrapped in bacon. Main course: Braised oxtail with seasonal vegetables and mashed potato.

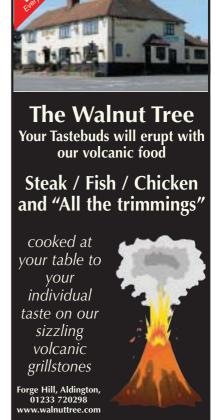
Dessert: Home-made gypsy tart with cream Telephone: 01233 840442

Hooden on the Hill

Starter: Crab and prawn salad - local crab served with lemon mayonaise and salad. Main course: Home-made chicken, ham and leek pie with potatoes and vegetables Dessert: Home-made banoffee pie Telephone: 01233 662226











CARTER'S STEAM FAIR

Saturday, May 29 to Monday, May 31. Dreamland Margate

TAKE a thrilling journey back in time and enjoy the amusements of the past as Carter's Steam Fair rolls into town.

Designed to whet the appetite for the revival of Dreamland in 2012, the fair offers a variety of vintage rides, many of which may have appeared at Dreamland in the past. From the Gallopers and Helter

Skelter to the Swingboats and Victory Dive Bomber, there is plenty of nostalgic fun on offer.

One of the most exciting attractions is James Messham's Wall of Death, exhilarating motorcycle action which has

been passed from father to son since 1929.

For more than 80 years, the daredevil spectacle has been thrilling audiences and is now run by the fourth generation of Messhams.

On Bank Holiday Monday there will be live music on Marine Terrace from noon, courtesy of the Ace Cafe London. Mods and rockers will be hopping on their bikes and taking their annual run to the seaside for the Margate Meltdown.

Carter's Steam Fair runs from 11am each day. Find out more at www.dreamlandmargate.com.



MINISTRY OF SOUND: THE GALLERY

Saturday, May 29, Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

CLUBBERS will be in seventh heaven when the Leas Cliff Hall hosts a major dance event.

Promotions company ToneDeff UK has teamed up with Ministry of Sound's most suc-cessful club night, The Gallery, to celebrate its 15th anniversary and Kent dance music fans have the chance to enjoy a spectacular all-nighter this weekend.

A stellar line-up of 13 DJs will keep the music coming from opm to 6am. The acts include global stars Marcel Woods, Tall Paul, Jon O'Bir and the world's number one VJ – or visual jock-

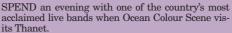
ey - Habs Akram. With a cutting edge sound and light system, the event promises to provide a night-long assault on the senses and keep feet moving from dusk until dawn.

Many electronic music fans in Kent have to travel far and wide to enjoy the best music in the genre, or visit London clubs such as Ministry of Sound and Fabric. But this weekend Kent clubbers have the chance to enjoy world

class music on their doorstep.
Tickets cost £25. Call 0844 847
1776 or go to www.tonedeff.co.uk
or www.leascliffhall.org.uk.

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE

Sunday, May 30, Winter Gardens, Margate

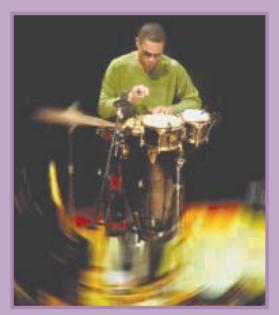


Ocean Colour Scene was one of the key bands of the Brit Pop period, achieving several big hits with their distinctive guitar riffs, such as The Riverboat Song and The Day We Caught the Train. Three of their albums made the top five of the UK chart, with Marchin' Already reaching the number one in 1997.

The band's performance at the V Festivals last year earned them the honour of being named The Best Live Band of the Festival, and two subsequent sold-out concerts at the Shepherds Bush Empire confirmed their status as one of the indie rock scene's greatest live acts.

This weekend the band's front man Simon Fowler and drummer Oscar Harrison will be giving an intimate acoustic concert in the venue's Queen's Hall, while guitarist Steve Cradock tours with Paul Weller. Support will be provided by local surf rock group, Hazy Shade.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10. To book call the box office on $01843\ 292795/296111$ or go online at www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.



FIVE STAR SWING

Sunday, May 30, Granville Theatre, Ramsgate



GET in the mood for an evening of nostalgic entertainment with the toe-tapping band, Five Star Swing.

Five Star Swing presents a fantastic feel-good concert packed full of great swing, jazz and blues tunes. In the Mood takes audiences on a musical journey through the sounds of the genre's great performers, with songs by Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra and infectious jazz and blues in the style of Jools Holland.
The band performed at the Vera Lynn Charity Ball in

London and In the Mood features some great multiinstrumentalists and singers. At the helm is Chris Smith, who is a former composer for Glenn Miller's brother Herb, the BBC Big Band and the Royal Variety Performance.

There will also be a special guest, Simone of the Ivy Benson Orchestra, who has been seen on BBC's Children

Take a trip back to the heyday of swing with this highly entertaining and well-crafted production. The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £12/£11.

To book call the box office on 01843 591750. More information can be found at www.granvilletheatre.com.





InME

Saturday, May 29, Westcoast, Margate



FIND out where the music comes from when InME rock the Westcoast this weekend.

Formed in 1996 under the name Drowned, the band decided to change their name five years later when they decided there were too many similarly-named groups. The new name was inspired when member Joe Morgan was asked where the music came from.

They signed with Music For Nations in 2001 but later moved to V2 and launched their own record label, Pandora's Box. They have since released two albums and are now back to promote their new release, Herald Moth.

Fei Comodo is one of the best screamohardcore bands in the country and they will be showing off their powerhouse style in a support slot. Telford-based band, Envy of the State, was invited to join the tour by InME and the show will be opened by alter-native metal band, Imicus. Between sets, Mike Lloyd will be performing acoustic sets

to keep the party mood going.

Doors open at 7.30pm. Priced at £10, advance tickets are available at www.westcoastlive.co.uk, by emailing westcoastbar1@aol.co.uk or call 07938 090700.





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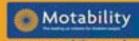




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Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

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Friday 11th June

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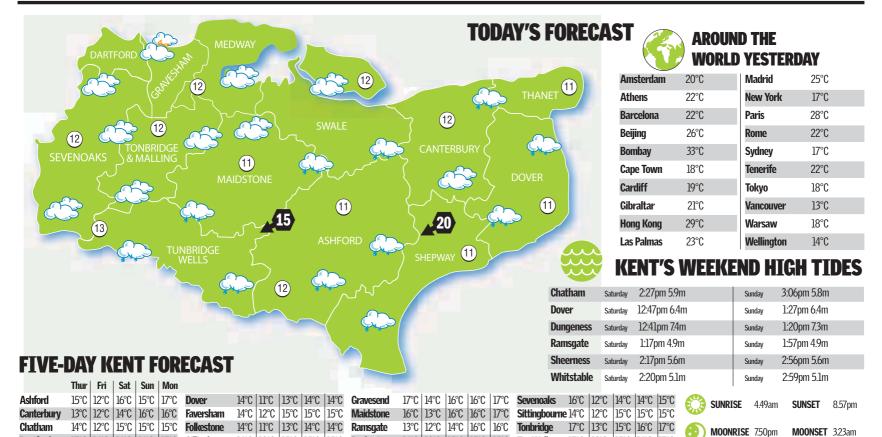
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ourmusic

Getting ready for a laugh at LOTF



STAND UP: Phill Jupitus will be bringing his unique style of comedy to the festival

BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

FUNNYMAN Phill Jupitus will headline this year's Lounge on the Farm comedy tent.

The established panel show and stand-up comic, a regular on the BBC's Never Mind the Buzzcocks and QI programmes,

will bring the laughter line-up to a close on the festival's final night, Sunday, July 11. Convicted drug smuggler turned author and mayoral can-didate Howard Marks will also appear on the Canterbury threedayer's comedy bill, taking to the stage on the second night.

A Lounge spokesman said: "With Mr Nice himself Howard Marks in attendance you can be sure of some jaw-droppingly amazing anecdotes from one of the world's greatest rancon-

teurs.
"From being top of the FBI's most wanted list to running for Mayor of London Howard has a treasure trove of tales to draw upon and simply can't be missed.

'Sunday will see all-round comedy colossus Phill Jupitus bring his Impro All Stars to Merton Farm for some side-splitting unscripted shenanigans.

"Phill is a master at work who will make sure that Lounge on the Farm ends in side-splitting

style."
Other highlights from The Playhouse comedy tent include Andre Vincent, who has notched up three sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Festival, and Marty McLean, who has spent the last 11 years taking his observational and occasionally dark humour across North America and

Comic Pete Cain is also one to watch. The stand-up's second ever gig saw him reach the semi finals of Channel 4's So You Think You're Funny competition

Since then he has appeared at every major UK comedy club, warmed up at the BBC for That **UPLOAD YOUR MUSIC VIDEOS TO BROADCAST ON OUR WEBSITE** @

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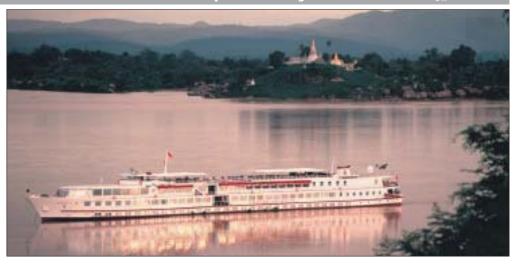
I.R.I.S - Aversion To Light (from Deal)

Mitchell & Webb Look and become a favourite of the summer festival circuit.

During the day The Playhouse tent will be used by a range of children's entertainers

Among the LOTF headliners are Motown greats Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, ska leg-ends Toots & The Maytals, The Crazy World of Arthur Brown, DJ Yoda and Courtney Pine.

For more information visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.



SETTING SAIL: The 300ft Road To Mandalay, which carries 82 passengers in old colonial grandeur and five-star cabins, is boarded at Yangon

urgetaways'

On the road to Mandalay, where the flyin'-fishes play

BY THEO UNDERWOOD

IT'S more than 100 years since Rudyard Kipling painted a famous portrait of the East in his poem, Mandalay - and when you sail down the Ayeyarwady River in Burma on a luxury cruiser you feel that little has changed since then.

It is hardly, of course, a coincidence that the boat we are travelling on carries the same name as Oley Speaks'

later song adaptation of the poem.
The 300ft Road To Mandalay carries 82 passengers in old colonial grandeur and five-star cabins.

To catch the boat, you fly to Singapore and on to Yangon before catching the rackety plane which hovers above dense green jungles, with Burmese military men taking all the front seats.

After that, the creature comforts of The Road To Mandalay are a soothing surprise.

The £4 million refurbishment has created an elegant restaurant with teak wall carvings from Amanpura. Also, 34 new state and deluxe cabins have en-suite bathrooms with jade tiles and walk-in showers.

Now we can sit on deck as Kipling's vivid vision of dawn break-ing like thunder and temples shim-mering in the sunlight comes to life before our eyes.

Children splash in the shallows, playing tag among themselves while their mothers wash the family's longyis - traditional Burmese robes in the river's thick, khaki-green water.

Fishermen, armed only with bamboo sticks for rods and the bottoms of plastic bottles for goggles, hunt their daily catch from long-tail boats.

Beyond the river's banks, hundreds of pagodas - some made of red sandstone, others gilded with gold leaf -

are scattered across the rice fields. Burma, for much of the time, seems

FACT FILE: BURMA

Capital	Naypyidaw
Capital	Cairo
Language	Burmese
Population	approx 50,000,000
Currency	Kyat
Religion	Buddhist



Theo Underwood was a guest of Orient Express, which offers the five-night journey in Burma from £1,960, including return flights Bangkok-Yangon-Bangkok, two nights' B&B at The Governor's Residence in Yangon and three nights' full-board in a superior cabin on The Road To Mandalay, a half day's sightseeing tour in Yangon and all internal flights and transfers. Orient Express reservations: 0845 077 2222 and www.orient-express.com

International flights extra, from approx £745 return.

· With no Burmese currency, the Kyat, available outside the country, tourists pay in dollars. Notes should be of low denomination (below \$20), clean and crisp.

· Visa needed by British passport holders costs £14, lasts 90 days and allows a visit up to 28 days. Apply to Burmese Embassy in London, although Orient-Express also arranges visas.

to have missed out on the 20th century: Or perhaps it is a trick of the strange, ethereal quality of the light.

Before setting sail from Mandalay, took a rowing boat out on Taung Tha Man lake. The light at dusk broke through the teak struts of U Bein's bridge - a 1,300m-long skele-

tal structure rising from the water. However, one of the most exhilarating experiences Burma offers awaited us 120 miles downstream.

A hot-air balloon whisked us 2,000ft above the ancient city of Bagan for a breathtaking view of its 4,000 temples, stupas and pagodas.

The city itself no longer exists, but its shrines to Buddha, built over hundreds of years on a stretch of delta the size of Manhattan Island, appear one by one at sunrise to form an intricate, crimson patchwork on an ochre landscape.

After our bumpy landing, eased by Champagne, we joined a bicycle tour for a close-up view of Bagan's temples.

Many are adorned with frescos telling the story of Buddha and although most have decayed in to ruin, or are awaiting restoration following the devastating 1975 earthquake, there are a few murals worth seeing - thanks to the intervention of UNESCO.

It is easy to be overawed by spectacular monuments to Buddhism in Bagan. While a temple, stupa or pagoda can be found at every turn, Burmese people deeply respect the religion and the monks they are not committed Buddhists.

Given the tense political situation, many travellers avoid Burma. However, Orient-Express argues its involvement preserves jobs - around 150 on the boat and 110 at The Governor's Residence Hotel.

Square your own conscience before you depart. Repression may enable Burma to preserve the mystery of the Orient, lost beneath tourist hordes in other parts of south-east Asia.

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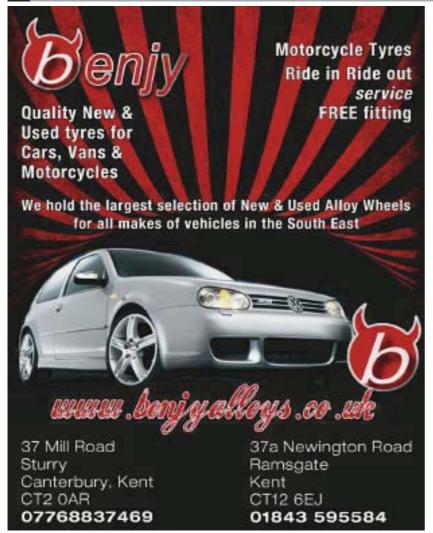
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X 01 NISSAN 1.0 MICRA S 3 door hatchback finished in blueish mauve, remote mirrors, power assisted steering, drivers airbag, 5 speed gear box stereo, lots of Nissan service history, dark/light grey upholstery, parcel shelf.

N 95 TOYOTA RAV-4 GX 2.0 4X4 finished in White, central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, SRS airbag, power assisted

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4.5 3 door hatchback finished or prefetch oldows, electric mirrors, electric sunroof, twin airbags, stereo, power assisted steering, cream cloth upholstery, full Volkswagens as the list wellow wheels, parcel shelf.

X 00 ROVER 25 16V 1.4 3 door hatchback, finished in White, 1 owner, drivers airbag, radio stereo system, power assissted steering, walnut inlay, Black cloth, upholstery, headlamp adjuster, rear spoiler, Arriving Shortly.

51 01 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 2.0 LTD EDITION finished in Metallic Blue, 1 owner, central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, power assisted steering, CD stereo, cruise control, leather/suede upholstery, air conditioning, chrome alloy wheels, parcel shelf, front fog lamps, Arriving Shortly.

7 9 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LS 8V 5 door hatchback finished in green, remote central locking, remote mirrors, electric windows, twin airbags, stereo controls on steering wheel, 5 speed gearbox, power assisted steering, sunroof, black cloth upholstery, full Vauxhall service history, parcel shelf.

03 03 CITROEN C3.1.4 DESIRE 5 door hatchback finished in metallic light blue, remote central locking, twin airbags, power assisted steering, electric windows, remote mirrors, cd stereo, blue cloth upholstery, parcel shelf.

799 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LS 8V automatic estate finished in blue, remote central locking, remote mirrors, electric windows, sun roof drivers airbag, stereo, power assisted steering, blue/black cloth upholstery, rolled top parcel shelf, factory fitted roof rails, service history ... £1695.00

W 00 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LS 16V 5 door hatchback finished in green, remote central locking, remote mirrors, power assisted steering, electric windows, twin airbags, CD stereo system with controls on steering wheel. 5 speed gearbox, air con, light grey cloth upholstery, parcel shelf, lost of service history.

53 03 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 5 door hatchback finished in silver, remote central locking, keycard, electric mirrors, electric windows, twin airbags, electric sun roof, power assisted steering. CD stereo with controls on steering wheel, alloy wheels, air con, black cloth uphotstery, parcel shelf.

W 00 FORD FOCUS 1.8 GHIATD 5 door hatchback finished in blue, remote central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, drivers airbag, walr dash, black cloth upholstery, air con, stereo, power assisted steering, alloy wheels, front fog lamps, parcel shelf.
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97 JAGUAR 4.0 SOVEREIGN automatic finished in silver, remote alarm central locking, power assisted steering, airbags, memory seat controls, cruise control, air con, rear and front heated screens, cream leather upholstery, service history, alloy wheels, front fog lamps, £3995.00

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147. 1.9 JTDm 16v DUCATI CORSE 147, 1.9 JTDm 16v DUCATI CORSE

22, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning
alloy wheels of player central locking
diesel drivers airbag electric windows
immobiliser metallic paint multiple
airbags power steering single cd
playes prompter win airbags
remote central locking isofix child
seat points remote audio controls. seat points remote audio controls, black, 10200 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147. 1.9 JTDm 16v DUCATI CORSE Q2, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric window diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 10200 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 285 6313 (TBADE). 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDM (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers cliniae control cruise control arrives airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDM (210), 2008, ab: brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £15000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918

GT, JDTm, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels do player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote autio controls seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 54000 miles, £8825, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE) Civic, 1.8ESAUTO, 2006, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission od player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering, galaxy grey, 13500 miles, £10500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CIVIC. FS. 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows metallic paint mp3 player windows metallic paint mp3 player power fold mirrors power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer curtain airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, black, 28400 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CIVIC, ES, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player sports seats tinted glass trip computer twin airbags isofix child seat points, galaxy grey, 12312 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918

CIVIC. 1.8SE, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass traction control, milano red, 7599 miles, £13500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.6SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels of player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint, blue, 29000 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, SE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control electric windows full service history metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player traction control trip computer curtain airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, grey, 15000 miles, £10980, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC. 1.8EXEC AUTO. 2009. abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise central locking climate control cruise control drives airbag electric control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking als split folding rear seats sun roof tinted glass traction control remote central locking, deep sapphire blue met, 7032 milles, £15500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)



CIVIC. 2.2 CTD-i ES. 2009. abs ise control diesel electric wind front fog lights metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering panoramic sunroof remote central locking auto headlights and wipers, polished metal, 6000 miles £16495, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC. 1.8se. 2009, abs brakes air central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint split folding rear seats tinted glass traction control, nighthawk black, 4566 miles £13500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496

CIVIC, TYPE-R 2.0, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip compute twin airbags, nighthawk black, 6910 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.4 vision, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels electric windows full service history £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496

CIVIC, SE 1.8, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control electric windows metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags remote central locking, grey, 27500 miles, £9495, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496

conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags pov steering, silver, 40138 miles, £4000 Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.8ES, 2008, abs brakes ai curuc, 1.8ES, 2008, ass brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors, galaxy grey, 25000 miles, £11500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.8 EX, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows front fog 44000 miles, £10500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC 1 STYPE-S GT SATNAV/19IN CIVIC. 18TYPE-S GT SATNAV/19IN ALLOYS, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission of player central locking rouise control drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint black, 11998 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC 2 2SE/I FATHER 2009 als LIVIU, 2.25E/LEATHER, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locki diesel electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint leather interior power steering, silve leather interior power steering, Suver, 6000 miles, £14500, Ramsgate, 0844

CIVIC 1.8 ES 2007 abs brakes allow CIVIC, 1.8 ES, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels central locking climate control cruise control electric windows full service history metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags traction control panoramic sunroof isofix child seat points, blueish silver, 32871 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC. EX I-Shift 1.8, 2007, abs LIVIU, EX 1-5nitt 1.8, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bull bars central locking climate control cruise control electric windows front fog lights full service history metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking, black, 21320 miles, £10695, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496

CIVIC. 2.2FS. 2006, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history obiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering, nighthawk black, 57363 miles, £9500, Ramsgate, 0844 856

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BEETLE, 2000, alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows power steering, blue, 52433 miles, £5400, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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BEETLE, 2000, alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows power steering, blue, 52433 miles, £5400, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE

BEETLE cabriolet, 2007, abs brakes BEELLE cabrolet, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer, luna red, 37669 miles, £10500, Centerburg, 0344, 956, 404, ATRADES Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BEETLE cabriolet, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer, luna red, 37669 miles, £10500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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BORA, SE TDI 100, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking wheels to player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, black, 56456 miles, £6000 Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BORA, SE TDI 100, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags po steering, black, 56456 miles, £6000 Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 24000 £17595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE) FOX, URBAN, 2007, cd player central locking drivers airbag power steering tinted glass remote central locking, black, 13350 miles, £5680, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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FOX, Urban, 2007, abs brakes cd player immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points, grey, 32085 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FOX, Urban, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, black, 8500 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FOX. 1.2 URBAN. 2006, abs brakes co player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 47803 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FOX, 1.4 URBAN, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover twin

FOX, Urban, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels of player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, black, 5000 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 285 6918, (TABAP).

FOX, URBAN, 2007, cd player central locking drivers airbag power steering tinted glass remote central locking, black, 13350 miles, £5680, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FOX, 1.2 URBAN, 2008, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats, red, 8000 miles,

FOX, 1.2 URBAN, 2008, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, red, 2505 miles, 56000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOX. Fox. 2007, abs brakes cd player FOX, FOX, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer win airbags remote central locking, metallic black, 40000 miles, £4200, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOX Urban 2007 als brakes cd player immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering to computer remote central locking computer remote central rocking isofix child seat points, grey, 32085 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856

FOX. 1.2 URBAN, 2006, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 47803 es, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856

FOX, 1.4 URBAN, 2007, abs brakes cd power steering tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking, red, 22680 miles, £6000, Canterbury

GOLF, 1.6 S. 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd playe electric windows metallic paint po electric windows frietanic paint por teteering traction control trip compu-emote central locking isofix child teat points, diamond black, 47966 niles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826

GOLF, GTI, 2005, red, 44601 mile: £11995, Ashford, 0844 826 5918

GOLF, Match, 2003, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, black, 53404 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GOLF, S FSI (AC), 2006, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag immobiliser power steering, blue, 30292 miles, £8500, Ashford 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GOLF. GTI Edition 30 DSG, 2008, abs electric windows immobiliser revers parking aid satellite navigation, red, 8901 miles, £19995, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GOLF, TDi 140 SE, 2009, black, 5490 miles, £16000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GOLF, GTI DSG, 2006, abs brakes air oning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise indows heated seats immobiliser windows heated seats immounted leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering, black, 19006 miles, £14500, Ashford,

GOLF, 1.6, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser, white, 53 miles, £31000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GOLF, 1.6, 2008, red, 55 miles, £31100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GOLF, 1.6MATCH, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint, blue 54000 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844

GOLF, 1.4 S, 2005, abs brakes cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer remote central locking, blue, 26148 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GOLF Match 2003 als brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows metallic paint power steering trip computer remote central locking, silver, 82783 miles. £5980, Ashford, 0844 826 5918

Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GOLF. 1.6. 2008, abs brakes cd

GOLF, 1.6, 2008, red, 55 mile

GOLF, 1.6, 2008, blue, 55 miles £30800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 GOLF, GT, 2005, abs brakes air

conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 44000 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GOLF, S FSI (AC), 2006, abs brakes airbag immobiliser power steering, blue, 30292 miles, £8500, Ramsgate 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GOLF, GTI Edition 30 DSG, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser reverse parking aid satellite navigation, red, 8901 miles, £19995, Ramsgate, 0844 856 A496 (TRADE)

GOLF GT 2005 als brakes air GOLF, GT, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 44000 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GOLF, GTI DSG, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags, black, 55000 miles, £13750, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GOLF, 1.6, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering traction control remote central locking, grey, 21206 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496

GOLF, V5 (170bhp), 2001, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, green, 51729 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856



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PROPERTY NEWS

Buy-to-let market gets loans boost

Steve Osborne, The Mortgage Man, shares his kowledge with you in this new fortnightly column



THE buy-to-let sector looks likely to be revitalised following the re-introduction of 80 per cent mortgages to this area of the housing market.

It marks an end to a long period during which lenders were wary of providing funds for the buy to let market and were insisting on borrowers raising a significant deposit before providing any

This requirement stifled the market by making it difficult for investors to withdraw equity from their portfolios to make further purchases

This week's re-introduction of 80 per cent mortgages for buy-to-let properties means that landlords now only need to find a deposit of 20 per cent in order to purchase homes to let.

Although the offer is currently only available to experienced landlords, it is a major leap forward and I expect to see further enhancements in the weeks and months to come

We are still some way off of seeing 85 per cent borrowing available for buy-tolets, which is where we were some time ago, but I don't believe this is a bad thing if we want to see long-term growth and stability in the housing market as a

Fees are still an issue with buy-to-let mortgages, with many lenders charging up to 3.5 per cent at the outset. While this may work for smaller mortgages, it makes larger loans expensive and it would be helpful to see some lenders offering a fixed fee structure

As with all mortgages, landlords need to weigh up the total cost of borrowing and not just consider the headline rate, however appealing it may appear.

This more relaxed lending approach is bound to result in more people buying second homes to let, and with house prices lower than they have been in the past, this may be the right time to buy.

There are lots of options and pitfalls, though, so make sure you get professional advice before considering buying property to let.

Steve Osborne The Mortgage Company Ashford



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Price rise allays fears of 'double dip' market

BY **NICK AMES**

HOUSE prices will rise by an average of £9,000 this year, despite a slower-than-usual start to 2010, economists have predicted.

Interest rates will remain low, encouraging buyers to return to the market, and this will have the effect of boosting prices by 5.3 per cent this year, according to the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).

It means the value of the average home in the UK would rise from £169,500, as calculated by Britain's biggest lender Halifax, to £178,500 by the end of this year.

The predictions have gone on to look at how things will turn out over the coming years as well. There will be a lower increase of 3.4 per cent in 2011, followed by a strong rise of nine per cent in 2012, CEBR predicted.

It comes after a fall in prices of more than 16 per cent in 2008 amid the financial meltdown which severely hit the market and led to gloomy predictions about the future.

David Hollingworth, of mortgage brokers London and Country, said: "It does not suggest that the market is back to normal, as transactions remain low, but it is a step in the right direction and it puts paid to suggestions of a double dip in the housing market.

The Bank of England is widely predicted to increase interest rates to 2.25 per cent by the end of 2011, but CEBR forecasts it will remain



at 0.5 per cent until then. The group added, however, that the bank rate could be temporarily higher if there was a hung parliament. But the impact of this was likely to be temporary, it said, and within 18 months rates would be back where they would have been if a single party had won the election.

It suggested average mortgage rates will fall from current levels of around four per cent to three per cent by the beginning of 2011 as markets begin to realize that interest rates will stay lower for longer than expected.

Fixed rate loans reach new low

FIXED-RATE mortgages have fallen to their lowest level since April 2007, while average two-year fixed-rate offers have fallen 3.36 per cent since April 2008, according to a new

Hannah-Mercedes Skenfield, the mortgages channel manager for the website moneysupermarket.com, revealed the results of the company's study and said that it was promising that fixed-rate mortgage rates were "moving in the right direction" and were returning to their lowest level since the height of the reces-

She continued: "With inflation rising, the potential for the Bank of England to increase the base rate in the near future increases, so borrowers who are looking to fix their mortgage repayment should consider whether now

is the perfect time to switch."

However, Ms Skenfield added that borrowers need to consider any fees associated with the mortgage switch before they make any decisions to grab the lowest rate available, as the deal may not represent the best value in

According to John Charcol research released this week, last month's home loan market was dominated by variable rates, which accounted for 84 per cent of mortgages.

The news comes alongside predictions for the future of the housing market over the next few months.

A spokeswoman for the Council of Mortgage Lenders made her assertions that there will be little movement following release of the Hometrack house price index, which explained that house prices increased by 0.2 per cent in

Furthermore, the supply of homes for sale – coming in at 3.7 per cent of the market as a whole - is outstripping demand, which remains at a comparatively low one per cent.

The representative further explained that there would be a major slowing-down in the market and asserted that the organisation was not expecting too much movement on prices or transactions.

She continued: "There'll be a few ups and downs as we go along which is to be expected but at the moment there are very, very low levels of transactions.

"Not very many people out there are actually buying houses or mortgaging houses at the moment.'

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Heath Farm Foster Care, Education & Therapy To support our continued growth and development we are seeking to recruit the following positions:

TEAM MANAGER (New Post)

£38,000 - £45,000 • Company Car Provided

We are seeking an experienced, highly motivated and forward thinking social worker to manage the social work team towards achieving best outcomes for children and young people through providing high levels of support to carers and effective coordination of Heath Farm services. Social Work Qualification and GSCC Registration essential.

ADMINISTRATOR (New Post) £13,011

To support the social work team we are seeking an additional administrator. You will be responsible for the company database and provide back up support to reception. Experienced user of MS Office applications or similar required.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

To the right candidates we can offer a range of benefits including excellent working conditions, private health care insurance, company pension scheme and access to regular supervision and professional development.

Closing date for both applications is Monday 7th June 2010 Interviews will take place w/c 14th June 2010

Heath Farm is an Equal Opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy.

If you have the ability and qualities required and wish to join a successful and growing organisation where your skills will be appreciated, email wcameron@heathfarm.org for an application pack Tel: 01233 712030

THE NEW SCHOOL AT WEST HEATH **SEVENOAKS**

"Rebuilding lives through education"

Principal & Chief Executive: Mrs Christina Wells (BA Hons.)

The New School at West Heath works towards helping students develop life skills and enjoy social activities. As a team we share a real desire to set a new, even higher standard of care in education and you can help us achieve this goal. The School has approval status from the DfCS and has an excellent rapport with both parents and the Local Authorities.

VICE PRINCIPAL, BOARDING AND CARE

Required from Autumn 2010

The Vice Principal will be responsible for developing and managing a comprehensive and flexible range of services to meet the needs of our boarding students whilst ensuring the school operates in an efficient and effective manner.

Contact Lynne McGrath for an application form and job description. Email: personnel@westheathschool.com Tel: 01732 460553 ext 294

Closing date for applications 11th June 2010 Interviews week commencing 14th June 2010 The successful applicants will be subject to a CRB check and Vetting & Barring.

The New School at West Heath is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

MGravesend Grammar School for Girls A Specialist Science and Language College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website:www.ggsg.org.uk email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk



Part-Time Teacher of PE (Maternity Cover 0.4 FTE)

Required from Sept 2010 Main Professional Scale

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed PE Teacher to cover maternity leave from Sept 2010 to June 2011.

The ideal candidate will be able to teach KS3 and KS4 core PE. Willingness to contribute to extra-curricular activities would be an advantage. The role is part time maternity cover for 2 days a week or

Part-Time Teacher of Music (Maternity Cover 0.6 FTE)

Required from Sept 2010 Main Professional Scale

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed Music Teacher to cover maternity leave from Sept 2010 to June 2011.

The ideal candidate will be able to teach music up to A level, Willingness to contribute to extra-curricular activities would be an advantage. The role is part time maternity cover for 3 days a week or equivalent.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term.

The School is also an Investor in People and an Investor in Careers.

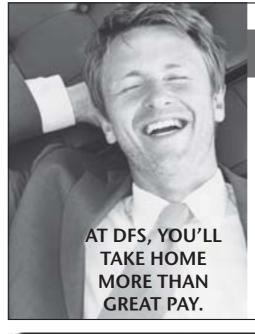
We have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004 and a Specialist Language College since April 2009.

Application forms and further details are available from the School Office. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher no later than Wednesday 9 June 2010

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this







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We wish to recruit committed individuals in return for a competitive salary, funded CPD and an excellent working environment. You will work within a dedicated Skills & Employability team to provide innovative, bespoke solutions as part of your client's journey to sustainable employment.

Candidates should have experience in engaging and motivating disadvantaged and excluded groups and demonstrate a desire to pass on their skills and experience to clients. Previous experience of coaching/mentoring with this client group will be a distinct advantage.

Whilst it is beneficial for candidates to be working towards or to hold a recognised qualification in Information Advice and Guidance, teaching certificate, NVQ Assessor Award (A1) and Internal Verifier, Award (V1), Justonestep will provide training and support for the right candidate to achieve these qualifications if necessary.

Salary: £16k - £22k pro rata. Negotiable + benefits

(Competitive depending on qualifications) Location: Thanet and Kent & Medway

Closing Date: 7th June Start Date: End of June

Initial contract period: June 2010- July 2012

This is an exciting opportunity to join a forward thinking, innovative and vibrant company and so if you are a committed, hard working, supportive, flexible team member and have the ability to relate to a wide range of people, we would like

To apply for this role please contact Julie Durant on 07969 463 809 for an informal chat, or e-mail your CV with covering letter to julie@justonestep.co.uk

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Human Resources Advisor Full or Part-time Opportunity

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As part of our continued development we are looking to recruit a Human Resources Advisor who will help deliver our operational commitment, primarily at our Maldstone campus.

You will provide comprehensive Human Resources (HR) advice and guidance to the Campus Senior Leadership Team, managers and staff and actively participate in development of employment policies. In addition, you will lead on staff consultation processes, people planning, change management processes, recruitment and absence manager nent in your designated departments. As an HR generalist you will engage with our stakeholders to enhance and support the delivery of outstanding learning opportunities at the

This role will involve working closely with the Head of HR and is a rare and exciting opportunity to help develop a fit for purpose HR support service.

The ideal candidate for this role will be CPD qualified and have experience of working in unionised environments. The person will have a track record delivering professional HR advice and support and be able to demonstrate that they have the knowledge and experience to improve the performance of the HR function.

For an informal discussion please contact lan Johnston, Head of Human Resources on 01634 383601. Please specify on your application whether you are interested in a full or part-time position

enefits include: Benenden Healthcore. Flexible working. Childcore Vouchers

CLOSING DATE: 11 JUNE 2010 INTERVIEW DATE: 17 JUNE 2010

The College is conveited to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midbont.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applicationspinidbont. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the **HR department** on **01634 203102** (24 hour answer machine) in all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.













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To advertise 817040

in this section **6** 01303

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HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College 11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

FAMILY LIAISON OFFICER

FIXED TERM 12 MONTH CONTRACT (Full time post - 37 hours per week, Term Time Only) Kent Scheme Band 6 £18,471 to £20,262 (approx £15,586 to £17,098)

We are seeking to appoint a Family Liaison Officer to drive attendance and to work proactively to reduce persistent absence. We are seeking to appoint a person who is enthusiastic, tenacious and self motivated to work with young people and their families who are experiencing difficulties in maintaining a minimum attendance of 94% Saint George's C of E School is an over-subscribed school. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks. Contact us to request further details and an application form. Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 14 June 2010

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- Other exceptional candidates who have a real interest in starting a career in the field of Personal Injury, who may have some relevant experience gained in other role

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Closing date: 11 June 2010.

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olice for the contract of the contract John Lacus Elimie d'i 3 Javini Elite i più Arik Javelin Way Ashford Kent TN24 8DE s to be held at 3rd Floor 39-45 shaftesbury Avenue London W1D 6LA on 8/06/2010 at 11.00 am. Dated 21/05/2010 THORNILEY, Joint Administrator

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CRICKET

BY TOM HOWARD

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Ashford Town 1st XI v Canterbury 1st XI

ASHFORD Town are still searching for their first win of the season as a century from captain Liam Tegg could only help his side to a winning

Town elected to bat after winning the toss and openers Simon Taylor and Tegg made a brisk start to the innings. Taylor hit a solid 59 and he was backed up by 20 year-old skipper Tegg, who plundered 109 before falling to the bowling of Ben Cooper.

Tegg's departure spelt the end of Ashford's solid start as wickets tumbled. Cooper finished with figures of 6 for 88. Ashford finished their 50 overs on 254 for 7, which gave them a reasonable chance to clinch their maiden win.

Needing more than five runs an over to chase down the target, Canterbury were never able to gain the upper hand in their reply. Both Neil Kimberley (24) and Stuart Drakeley (15) got out after beginning to look well set.
Craig Buckham caused Canterbury all kinds of

problems and his four wickets left the visitors hoping to hang on for a draw.

Sam Kennett grabbed his second wicket of the game shortly after but Ashford's progress was halted by Ryan Minter and Josh Staunton. The pair managed to bat out the final overs and deny Ashford the win.

Ashford hope to get off the mark this Saturday, when they take on Blackheath.

Town remain winless



DENIED: Liam Tegg's century was not enough to see Ashford home to their first win of the season

SCOREBOARD

Distance TOOD MIDOO	Gary Sutton b Wren Peter Shields at Macv Sam Kennett at Wren Craig Buckham not ou Mohsin Raza not out	icar b b Coo ıt	Coop oper .	er	23 8
	Shane Beech did not be Luca Sardo did not be				
	Extras (5b 3lb 1w) Total (7 wickets, 50 ov	ers)			9 254
	Bowlers	0	М	R	w
	Ryan Minter Ben Clarke Justin Macvicar Ben Cooper Luke Samarasinghe Tim Wren	7 6 3 14 5	1 2 0 0 0	23 16 20 88 23 76	0 0 0 6 0
	Canterbury	lst	ΧI		Runs
	Canterbury Neil Kimberley b Taylo Stuart Drakeley ct M Paul Steer Ct Egg b B Luke Samarasinghe c Stuart Sinclair libw b Ryan Minter not out. Justin Macvicar ct Ta Ben Clarke ct Medist Josh Staunton not ou Tim Wren did not bat. Ben Cooper did not bat.	or cAlist duckha et Bee Buckl aylor b er b K	er b K am . ech b E ham o Buck ennet	ennett Buckhai ham	24 16 m46 4 36 13
	Neil Kimberley b Tayli Stuart Drakeley of M Paul Steer of Tegg b B Luke Samarasinghe of Stuart Sinclair lbw b Ryan Minter not out. J Justin Macvicar of TE Ben Clarke of McAlista Josh Staunton not ou Tim Wren did not bat.	or cAlist cuckha t Bee Buckh aylor b er b K t	er b K am . ech b E ham o Buck ennet	ennett Buckhar ham	24 16 m46 36 13

sin Raza	11	2	28	
Kennett	8	1	25	
on Taylor	7	2	17	
Sardo	5	0	30	
g Buckham	12	0	31	
Tegg	7	2	28	
	12 7			

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Tenterden 1st XI v Broadstairs 1st XI

TENTERDEN'S 100 per cent winning start to the Kent League Division Two season came to an end after a winning draw against Broadstairs on Saturday.

The hosts batted first and after an early collapse with three of their top five registering ducks, they recovered to 218 for 8 from their 50 overs. Simon Berry (43) and Ben Daking (40) salvaged the innings late on.

Tenterden's bowling attack set their sights on victory but despite a spirited display they came two wickets short of a third consecutive win. Timir Chanda was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 3 for 32.

Tenterden 1st XI

				Runs
Tim Curteis				
Andrew Crawford .	ct Bre	nnan b Ross		18
Timir Chanda				
Darren Bailey				
Nick Daynes				
Paul Brann				
Simon Berry	ct Ho	gben b Rattio	gan	43
Ben Daking	not oi	it	- 	40
Mark Brann	lbw b	Narraway		13
James Rand	not ou	ıt		25
Mark Baker	did no	t bat		
Extras	(11b	6lb 8w)		25
Total	(8 wid	ckets, 50 ove	rs)	218
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
Liam Narraway	15	3	66	4
Michael Ross	15	5	43	2
Ashley Ellison	10	1	41	0
Martin Rattigan	10	0	51	2
Broadstairs 1s	t XI			
Michael Ross	h Cha	nda		Runs
Jake Benfield				
Alex Hogben				
David Cooper	h Cha	nda Nanu		20
Scott Narraway				
Neil Brennan				
Terry Bond				
Liam Narraway				
Sam Winsor				
Sam winsor Martin Rattigan				
Ashley Ellison	did no	t bat		
Extras				
Total	(8 wid	ckets, 50 ove	rs)	185
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
Ben Daking	5	1	31	0
James Rand	10	3	37	2
Mark Baker	15	6	56	2

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP EAST

Wye 1st XI v Old Williamsonians 1st XI

AN INSPIRED display from bowlers from the Wye bowling attack helped steer them to a 35-run win.

The afternoon started poorly for Wye as their top three batsmen were dismissed for 21 runs. The innings was rescued by Giles Starley's 59 and Elgar's 28 as they went on to post a

Quick wickets were in order to keep Wye's hopes of a win alive and their bowlers duly responded. Elgar, Wise and Jordan Reed-Ashton took four early wickets to leave Old Williamsonians 43 for 4. The visitors briefly recovered but Wye eventually dismissed them for 133.

Wye 1st XI Jordan Reed-Ashton

David Pietcher Daniel Noden Giles Starley Raj Mahadevaiah Stuart Wise Will Elgar Alex Woodbridge Matt Barlow Keith Secrett Mark Shannon Extras	ct Par b But b But ct Me ct Wo b J Cl b J Cl not ou	nell b Patter cher cher yers b Butch od b J Child nild	rson	9 59 4 12 28 0 0 3
Total	(all or	it, 43.4 overs	s)	168
Bowlers Phil Patterson Jimmy Masters Luke Butcher John Child Peter Meyers Hugo Parnell David Child	0 10 7 8 8.4 4 4 2	M 2 2 1 1 0 0	R 26 26 23 19 15 18 23	W 2 1 3 4 0 0
Old Williamsoni Luke Butcher James Whitnell Sean Holibrook Jonathan Child David Child Hugo Parnell Ashley Pentecost Andy Wood Phil Patterson Jimmy Masters Peter Meyers	ct Sec b Wis lbw b ct Noo b Wis ct Wo b Wis lbw b b Wis	crett b Elgar e	n. Ashton Secrett	32 0 1 36 28 6 0 7 2
Extras	(5b 6l (all οι	b 7w) it, 42 overs)		18
Bowlers Will Elgar Alex Woodbridge Stuart Wise Jordan Reed-Ashton Matt Barlow Mark Shannon Keith Secrett	0 5 4 11 6 3 6 7	M 3 1 3 2 0 0	R 13 17 21 16 14 24	W 1 0 5 2 0 1

KENT REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Yalding 1st XI v Mersham Sports 1st XI

CENTURIES from Mersham Sports' Dave Fagg and Alan Stevens condemned Yalding to a four-wicket defeat in the Kent Cricket Regional League.

Yalding gave themselves a platform for victory after scoring 251 for 6 from their 46 overs, which included an unbeaten century from Marty Hollis.

However, Mersham didn't let the total worry them and their batsmen adapted to the challenge. Centuries from Fagg (100) and Stevens (109) put the visitors in a great position. Despite a solid showing from Jumshad Haider, who took four wickets, Mersham won the game with four overs

Yalding 1st XI

Graham Hutchins .	lbw b	Wise		19
Marty Hollis	not ou	t		101
Usman Pervaiz	ct Pug	h b Tyrrell		38
Alistair Ratcliff	b Tvrr	ell		10
Joel Shopland				
Zeeshan Fazal				
Mohammad Waseer	m not ou	t		10
Jumshad Haider	did no	t bat		
Dushyanth Gnanappira				
Anthony Shepherd				
Extras				
Total				
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
John Harman	12	3	48	0
Kevin Wise	8	1	40	2
Vince Tyrrell	12	3	41	2
Darren Pugh	11	0	76	0
Alan Stevens	3	Õ	38	ĭ

Mersham Sports 1st XI

				Runs
Darren Pugh	ct The	mas b Haid	er	11
E Holland-Kemp				
Alan Stevens				
David Harman				
Rob Wilson				
Dave Fagg				
William Colthup				
John Southern				
Kevin Wise	did no	t bat		
John Harman	did no	t bat		
Vince Tyrrell				
Extras				
Total				
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
Jumshad Haider	12	5	54	4
Usman Pervaiz	12	ī	45	i
Anthony Shepherd	7.2	0		Ō
The state of the s		ō		-

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE 1B CENTRAL

Gore Court 3rd XI v Willesborough 1st XI

JOHN Scamp's five-wicket haul was the highlight for Willesborough as they recorded a seven-wicket defeat against Gore Court 3rd XI.

Court were put into bat but they never really troubled the scoreboard, scoring just 107 before being dismissed. Scamp did the majority of the damage with figures of 5

Willesborough's run chase began slowly as the wickets of openers John Webster and Graeme Marsh fell cheaply. Lewis Back (46) put the chase back on track and it was left to him and Vishal Sajikumar to hit the winning runs

Gore Court 3rd XI

Daniei Giazier				
Ali Rushworth	ct Stu	ckey b Scan	np	42
Geoffrey Fernand	b Scar	np		16
Matt Kingsnorth	lbw b	Webster		8
Andrew Nutting				
James Newell				
Luke Girt	ct Mai	sh b Scami)	0
Josh Hayes				
Tom Passey				
Extras				14
Total				
		,	,	
Bowlers				
Domicio	0	M	R	W
Callum Stuckey	10	2	28	ï
John Webster	10.3	3		
John Scamp	10.5	5	21	2 5
		i		1
Stuart Wilmer	11	1	22	1

.ct Back b Stuckey. .

Willesborough 1st XI

Tom Passev

				Runs
John Webster	lbw b	Newell		16
Graeme Marsh	lbw b	Newell		18
Lewis Back	not ou	t		46
Jez Sharp	b Glaz	ier		17
Robert Ades	retired	not out		1
Vishal Sajikumar	not ou	t		7
Stuart Wilmer				
Callum Stuckey	did no	t bat		
John Scamp	did no	t bat		
Jake Murphy				
Ashley Robinson				
Extras				4
Total				
Bowlers				
	0	M	R	W
James Newell	12	2	33	2

London 2012 on my mind, admits Lisa

ATHLETICS

BY TOM HOWARD

LONDON 2012 may be more than two years away, but Lisa Dobriskey's path to gold is already under way with the 1500m athlete describing this season as "vital" in fulfilling her Olympic dream.

The world silver medalist is one of Great Britain's gold medal hopefuls on home soil. Although the London Games are still almost 800 days away, the 26-year-old is using this season to plan the best way to prepare for the Olympics.

After a back injury disrupted her winter training, the Ashford-born athlete is now fully fit and eager to begin her summer campaign which is dominated this year by July's European Athletics Championships.

Winning the championships in Barcelona is her main goal, but London 2012 is never far from her mind.

Last month Dobriskey completed an intense altitude training session in the Spanish Pyrenees, instead of her normal preparation in a bid to see if there any advantages to be gained for the Olympics

She said: "It's a big year and one which we can experiment and take risks to make sure we get everything 100 per cent perfect for 2012.

"The Games are two years away but the preparations really start now. It will be interesting to see the results and the information will be vital as to whether we will use any new methods in the lead up to 2012.

"It can be very easy to become over-

whelmed by the fact the Olympics are going to be in London soon. I have been forcing myself not to think about it and make sure I'm focused and in my own little bubble.'

Dobriskey, who began her season with a fourth place in the 3000m at the Loughborough International meeting on Sunday, remains unsure whether her schedule will allow her to defend her 1500m title at the Commonwealth Games in October.

She will be racing in the rebranded elite Diamond League, which began in Qatar last weekend, and intends to race in the fifth round in New York



HOME RUN: Lisa Dobriskey says this season is vital to her preparation for what she hopes will be a golden year at the London 2012 Olympics

FOOTBALL



PLEASED: Ashford Town boss Steve Lovell has signed Adam Flanagan from Dartford

Darts defender a big boost for Town

FORMER Dartford defender Adam Flanagan is the first new face to join Steve Lovell's Ashford Town side for next season.

The Ashford boss admitted last week he intends to bring in at least six new signings to add to his side for the new campaign after having been embroiled in a relegation scrap last season. The capture of Flanagan confirms the club's bid for a shot at promotion next season.

The experienced defender played a large part in Dartford's Ryman Premier League winning side and Lovell moved quickly to sign him following his release from Princes Park.

Lovell said: "I'm pleased we've managed to sign him and he will bring a lot of experience to our side. Last year we knew it was going to be a tough but this season we are very much looking for a top-half finish or

A pre-season friendly against near neighbours Folkestone Invicta has been confirmed for July 27 at Cheriton Road.

Sponsors aid Reeves' Isle of Man TT hopes

MOTORSPORT

MULTIPLE world sidecar champion Tim Reeves will compete in the Isle of Man TT next month after securing the sponsorship required to do battle in the notorious road race.

The sidecar veteran from Tenterden admitted last month his chances of competing at the famous road race were slim after one of his major sponsors withdrew. But increased support from existing sponsors Double M Racing and Haith has booked his place on the start line.

Reeves is a three-time world champion but has never won the prestigious event on the epic 37.7-mile Manx road course. The closest he has



RETURN: Tim Reeves (driving) will race in the the Isle of Man TT thanks to increased support from his sponsors

come to reaching the top step of the podium was a third-place finish on his debut in 2008

Now armed with the necessary backing to challenge for victory, the 38-year old, making his third visit to the island, immediately becomes

one of the favourites for this year's race.

Reeves said: "We had a few problems with sponsorship early on but thankfully that is all behind us now and we are getting ready for the

"I was really unsure if it was going to happen this year but they've pulled me out the mire and I'm now fully focused on getting the F2 bike ready in time and repaying them with the best result I possibly can.

Free practice on the island starts this Saturday, with the first of Reeves' two sidecar races on Saturday, June 5.

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